



## BEST FOR BOOKS

Claire Bloom on Ingrid Bergman  
PLUS Lawrence James on Napoleon

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## BEST FOR FILMS

Brad Pitt on Seven Years in Tibet

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## IS THIS THE WORLD'S MOST DANGEROUS WOMAN?

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32 PAGES IN TWO SECTIONS



Golden wedding tributes to family

# Duke's secret of success: 'my tolerant wife'

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE Duke of Edinburgh paid warm tribute to his wife's tolerance and his children's achievements yesterday in an unusually personal speech to mark the royal couple's golden wedding anniversary.

With the Queen at his side, the Duke also expressed his belief that a partnership in marriage could achieve much more than a single individual and offered his own recipe for a successful marriage.

"I think the main lesson we have learnt is that tolerance is the one essential ingredient," he told 800 guests at a lunch at Guildhall in the City. "It may not be quite so important when things are going well, but it is absolutely vital when the going gets difficult. You can take it from me that the Queen has the quality of tolerance in abundance."

He went on to confess that he and his wife had gone through the full range of the pleasures and tribulations of child-rearing. "I am, naturally, somewhat biased, but I think our children have all done rather well under very demanding circumstances and I hope I can be forgiven for feeling proud of them. I am also encouraged to see what a good start the next generation is making."

Three of the couple's children have been divorced, and the fourth remains unmarried. Only one — the Princess Royal — was present to hear the Duke's tribute.

Alluding to the difficulties of royal marriage, the Duke said that position of hereditary head of state was greater than the individual who occupied it. "People who find themselves in such a position have to learn to accept certain constraints... but they also discover that it gives them quite exceptional opportunities to serve the interests of their communities and the nation at large. In such circumstances much can be done by an individual, but I am sufficiently old-fashioned to



The Duke: proud of his children's achievements

believe that a great deal more can be achieved by a partnership in marriage. It has been a challenge for us, but by trial and experience, I believe we have achieved a sensible division of labour and a good balance between our individual and joint interests."

For the Duke to make the formal speech while his wife is present is unusual, but as he explained, marriage involves two partners. The Queen will have her turn today, the actual anniversary, when she replies to the toast at a lunch for 350 people hosted by the Prime Minister.

The Queen is only the second reigning monarch in British history to achieve a golden wedding anniversary. The other couple were King George III and Queen Charlotte in 1811, but as the king had by then relapsed into his so-called madness, festivities were thin on the ground. This time, however, there will be two days of celebrations. They began the Queen and the Duke arrived at Guildhall to be greeted by the Lord Mayor and a crowd of 200 on the street outside. Besides large numbers of City

worthies and their wives, the guest list included Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, the Duke of Kent and the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester. John Prescott represented the Government, and the former prime ministers John Major, Baroness Thatcher, Sir Edward Heath and Lord Callaghan were also there.

The bells of the church of St Lawrence Jewry rang out as guests sat down to baby lobster, Norfolk duckling with Calvados and apples, and bread and butter pudding with custard. As background, the orchestra of the Scots Guards played selections from *The King And I*, and other light romantic melodies.

Last night the Queen and Prince Philip attended a gala concert at the Royal Festival Hall devised by Prince Edward with help from the theatre director Trevor Nunn. They were joined at the concert and for supper afterwards by some 50 representatives of other European royal houses both regnant and deposed.

Members of the public paid between £10 and £400 for a seat at the concert, based on a theme of love, which drew heavily on readings from Shakespeare by actors including Ian Holm, Donald Sinden and Diana Rigg. The music ranged from Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* to Bernstein's *West Side Story*, from Verdi's *Otello* to Mendelssohn's *Wedding March*.

The anniversary celebrations reach their climax today when the Queen and the Duke attend a thanksgiving service in Westminster Abbey, where they were married on November 20, 1947. In the depths of postwar austerity, even Princess Elizabeth had to find 300 clothing ration coupons for her silk Hartnell dress. After the service, at which five other golden couples will be blessed, the royal couple will emerge from the Great West Door and walk about in front of the Queen Elizabeth II



The Queen at Guildhall where she was given lion, unicorn and dragon carvings which will find a home at Windsor

conference centre, before driving to 10 Downing Street for pre-lunch drinks with Tony and Cherie Blair.

The Prime Minister will then accompany them to the Banqueting House in Whitehall, where, in the style of the present Government, he will host a "people's banquet". The most decorated ordinary mortal there will be the jockey

Walter Swinburn, who will be seated next to the Queen.

Other guests will include Sir Cliff Richard, Shirley Bassey, Mike Atherton, Sally Gunnell, Frank Bruno and Rowan Atkinson as well as a small collection of people who could genuinely be described as "ordinary". Brian Bevan, Britain's most decorated lifeboatman, WPC Gillian Shields,

community policewoman of the year, and Helen James, a Girl Guide leader from Anglesey, will be among them. The celebrations will conclude tonight with a private ball in the newly restored state apartments of Windsor Castle.

People's banquet, page 4  
Royal gathering, page 5  
Leading article, page 23

# Million pound takeover bonanza for 300

By JASON NISSE AND RICHARD MILES

UP TO 300 millionaires were created instantly in the City yesterday when the giant American stockbroker, Merrill Lynch, paid £3.1 billion in cash for Mercury Asset Management (MAM), the pension fund manager.

The surprise bid made the City firm's bosses, Hugh Stevenson, Carl Galle and Stephen Zimmerman, at least £10 million each. But the £17-a-share offer — priced at nearly a third more than MAM's market price on Tuesday — will also make as many as 300 of the firm's staff untold fortunes thanks to its generous share options scheme. The deal will create the world's third largest fund manager, with £266 billion of funds under management.

Neither MAM nor Merrill Lynch would give details of the windfalls that could create nearly as many millionaires as the National Lottery, but MAM's most recent annual report states that its nine executive directors and up to 200 other employees stand to benefit from the firm's share option scheme.

Mr Zimmerman is the largest beneficiary of the deal, making £15 million on top of the £5.9 million he received last year.

Ms Galle, a former librarian from Tyneside, will pick up an estimated £10 million on top of the £5.4 million she took home last year and Mr Stevenson will supplement his £980,000 pay from last year with a £14 million windfall. Continued on page 2, col 4

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## Rescuer missing

A helicopter winchman was missing last night when he was washed off the deck of a cargo ship near Shetland where he had rescued 10 of its crew. Bill Deacon was swept into the sea seconds after he had attached a rescue wire to the final seaman... Page 3

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# MPs give Harman 'roasting' over cuts

By NICHOLAS WATT, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR was told last night that he faces a "considerable revolt" by Labour MPs over the Government's decision to cut benefits for lone parents by up to £11 a week.

The warning from backbenchers came after Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, was given a hostile reception at a meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party (PLP). The backbenchers passed on the concerns to Mr Blair at the new weekly meeting between the Prime Minister and the PLP's executive committee.

MPs who were present at the earlier meeting said that Ms Harman was given a "roasting" when at least ten MPs made hostile speeches. Those who spoke included Chris Mullin, the MP for Sunderland, South Audrey Wise, the MP for Preston, and Michael Connarty, the MP for Falkirk East.

One MP who was present said: "In all my years I have never seen a frontbencher given such a mauling. Harriet was hopeless and seemed to be completely out of touch with the victimisation of lone parents."

Ms Harman's reception marked the latest stage in a growing revolt on the Labour backbenches at the Govern-

ment's decision to uphold the Tories' plans to cut benefits to lone parents by up to £11 a week. A Commons Early Day Motion questioning the cuts, which was first published in July, has been attracting growing support. It will be published again today with the signatures of 43 Labour MPs.

One Labour loyalist said Ms Harman's critics at yesterday's meeting were not just drawn from the ranks of disaffected left-wingers and that new MPs, who would be expected to toe the line, spoke up. Ms Harman was told that MPs were dismayed that ministers had decided to uphold a Tory spending cut.

One MP threw back at Ms Harman her own criticism of the cuts when they were first proposed by Kenneth Clarke in his budget last year. The rebels were angered after the meeting when a Labour party spokesman said that the meeting had given its "full backing" for Ms Harman's "New Deal" plan which involves the cut in benefits and measures to encourage lone parents to work.

Ms Harman's supporters fought back last night and insisted that she had not been given a rough time.

## TV may alert viewers to naked truth



"Quick! There's another nudity and violence bit coming up"

A TELETEXT-STYLE warning system that could end the embarrassment suffered by parents as they watch television with their children is being considered by broadcast watchdogs (Carol Midgley writes). Under the system messages would flash up alerting viewers that scenes of nudity or extreme violence are about to appear. The Independent Television Commission is also considering toughening up verbal warnings given out at the start of programmes. The ITC stressed the proposals were at an early stage and, if accepted, could not be introduced "overnight".

# Poor readers gain in summer schools

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

HALF of the children attending the Government's first literacy summer schools made six months' progress in three weeks, according to an evaluation of the project to be published today.

More than 1,500 pupils who had failed to reach their expected reading level before transferring to secondary education attended the 50 schools in July and August. The scheme is to be expanded tenfold next year.

The results of this summer's experiment have been a closely guarded secret, with even the schools involved unaware of their pupils' scores. Critics predicted that 11-year-olds would make little progress through further exposure to teaching methods which had already failed them.

But tests carried out by the National Foundation for Educational Research have shown some schools registering dramatic progress. At Halewood School in Liverpool and Windsor High School, Salford, up to 60 per cent of children improved their "reading age" by more than a year.

In the 50 schools, 95 per cent of eligible pupils attended the full three weeks. The NFER report finds that their confidence in reading was raised significantly. The re-

sults show that up to nine pupils out of ten attending the summer schools improved their reading scores. All were at the level below their expected reading age in national curriculum tests taken in May.

Bob Salisbury, the head teacher of Garibaldi School, in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, which ran one of the summer schools, said: "The sceptics insisted that the kids wouldn't stay the course, parents wouldn't support it and teachers wouldn't be interested. We found quite the opposite; it worked remarkably well from day one."

The Government launched the programme with £300,000 originally earmarked for the Grant Maintained Schools Foundation.

The size of the scheme was doubled subsequently after a £250,000 donation by News International, publishers of *The Times*.

State school pupils are to have lessons in citizenship and democracy, under proposals launched by David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, yesterday.

Sir Bernard Crick, professor of politics at Birkbeck College, London, is to chair a group making recommendations on the content.





## IN BRIEF

### POLITICAL SKETCH

Do you see what I mean about mud-wrestling?

**Leading article page 23**

Lord Byron's pearl-decorated musical snuffbox for which he paid a jeweller in Old Bond Street, London, £105 in July 1813, fetched £67,725 at Christie's in Geneva. The lid of the box opens to reveal a woman playing the harp and piano surrounded by male singers.

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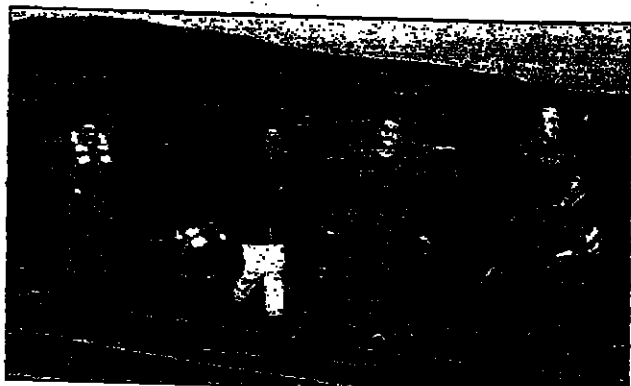
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# Helicopter winchman lost in rescue



The *Green Lily's* crewmen are brought ashore by helicopter. Colleagues cut safety wire as squalls lash craft after 15 crewmen are taken off refrigeration ship wrecked on rocks. Shirley English reports

THE search was suspended last night for a helicopter winchman lost off Shetland while rescuing ten crewmen from a wrecked cargo ship in 70mph gales.

Bill Deacon was swept into the sea by giant waves seconds after he had helped to attach a coastguard rescue wire to the final seaman from the stricken vessel *Green Lily*.

It is understood the safety wire linking him to the helicopter had to be cut by his colleagues, although the circumstances that led to the decision are not yet known. One report said the wire had snapped and been lost when a sudden squall struck the Bristows Seaview helicopter, on contract to Shetland coastguard. Huge waves were breaking over the ship, which had been forced onto cliffs on the east side of the island of Bressay at 2pm.

A four-hour search for Mr Deacon in darkness and atrocious weather was called off at 7pm. A coastguard spokesman said it was impossible to see anything as gale force winds whipped up oil-laden spray and debris from the wreck. "We have not given up hope, but it is now four hours since he went into the water. The search has been called off reluctantly, but will start again at first light tomorrow. At the moment conditions are so bad there is nothing we can do."

The coastguard helicopter and an RAF helicopter had joined Lerwick lifeboat and coastguard volunteers in the search for the missing man.

Mr Deacon, who was said to be very experienced and highly trained, was washed overboard shortly after 3pm. He was em-

ployed by Bristows and had worked as a helicopter winchman on contract to coastguards in the north of Scotland for many years. It is believed he may have been providing holiday relief for Shetland coastguard.

Bob Driver, regional coastguard controller, said: "It is difficult to put a time on his chance of survival. We will carry on searching until all hope is exhausted. We still have hope at the moment." Bristows were last night trying to contact Mr Deacon's family.

It is understood the winchman had been lowered from the helicopter to the ship to help the 10 remaining Croatian and Filipino crewmen to escape as their vessel, which was carrying fish, began breaking up and leaking 240 tonnes of oil. Five other crewmen had been rescued earlier by the Lerwick lifeboat, which pulled alongside the *Green Lily* in 30ft seas and snatched them to safety. Eventually it had to withdraw because of the waves.

Although the helicopter hovered over the heaving seas, searching for Mr Deacon for several minutes after he was lost, it eventually had to take the survivors to Gilbert Bain Hospital in Lerwick. The crew then flew to Sumburgh airport to refuel and collect a new wire and a replacement winchman before returning to the scene.

The coastguard had been alerted eight hours earlier, at around 7.30am, when it received a distress call from the refrigerated cargo vessel saying its engines had failed nine miles off Shetland. Throughout the day three rigs attempted to stop the *Green Lily* going aground,

but after numerous attempts to attach tow lines failed, it was driven onto rocks. The ship, owned by a Norwegian company and registered in the Bahamas, was heading for Spain.

The weather caused havoc across Scotland. Electricity engineers were working to restore power to 900 people on five of the outer Orkney islands. Last night two other islands, Westray and Shapinsay, were still not connected and were expected to spend a second night without power. In Dumfries and Galloway, in the coastal village of Isle of Whithorn, part of a house collapsed into the sea as the owner slept in the other half. John McWilliam, 58, was woken by his daughter in the morning.



The coastguard helicopter hovers close to the wreck of the *Green Lily* on Bressay, searching for Bill Deacon before heading for hospital with the rescued seamen

## 'He was a hero. He gave his life'

Eyewitness report on the rescue, by Shetland News journalist Jonathan Wills

THE ship went aground near a boulder beach between cliffs on the uninhabited east coast of Bressay, 1 1/2 miles from the nearest road. The wind was so strong it was hard to stand up. Taking shelter behind an old peat bank, I could see the helicopter hovering above the ship as she rolled heavily, broadside on to seas about 20ft high. As I watched, the bows struck a rock and she swung round head-on to the seas. I saw someone

hanging on to the wire below the helicopter and being winched up. At first, I thought it was the winchman, but in fact he was still on board. It must have been the last of the survivors.

Then I saw the helicopter turn and come back round for another lift. I thought I saw someone on the wire. Then the helicopter wobbled noticeably, just as the ship did a violent roll from side to side. I thought the rotors were going to hit the

masts. The waves burst right over the stern of the ship.

When I could see the chopper again, there was no sign of anyone on the line. That must be when they snagged the wire on the rigging and had to cut it away. The winchman was a hero. The conditions were terrifying, particularly after the ship hit the rocks. But he stayed on board until he had made sure everyone was safe. He gave his life for them.

At first, I couldn't understand

why the helicopter hung around for the next ten minutes or so, apparently searching for someone or something in the water, which was now turning purplish black with oil. Now I know they were looking for the winchman.

The lifeboat coxswain, Hewitt Clark, was also very brave. I saw him repeatedly take the lifeboat under the lee side of the ship to snatch crew from the rail. It was an extraordinarily courageous and skilled piece of seamanship.

## Rugby schoolboy, 16, flies to West Indies suffering exam nerves

By PAUL WILKINSON

A FIFTH-FORMER at a public school abandoned his studies to fly alone to Barbados, apparently suffering from examination nerves.

Now police on the tropical island are searching for the teenager who is believed to have joined up with a drop-out artist called Ryan O'Neil whom he met on an earlier holiday in the Caribbean.

Fena Chapman, 16, pulled out of his preparations for GCSE trials next week at Rugby school in Warwickshire without telling his parents or teachers that he was going. Reports suggested he had borrowed cash from his schoolfriends to pay for his flight.

By the time staff reported him missing at 4pm on Tuesday, he was already in the air on a flight from Manchester. A spokesman for Warwickshire police said: "We are very keen to trace this boy, and obviously his parents are extremely worried about him too. He has committed no offence and it is purely concern for his welfare."

"We understand he went to Barbados in the summer with his parents and it appears he was quite enchanted with the place. He will also know his way around to some extent

because he's been there before. There is some suggestion that he may be suffering from exam-related stress."

Yesterday a schoolfriend called Dave said: "It is the talk of the school. He just wanted to get away from the oppressive atmosphere of this place. It didn't suit him and he needed to get away from everything that was getting him down."

"He is a very popular lad and a real individual. He plays the tuba in the school band, plays rugby for the school colts A side and was also due to be in a school play of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, though I don't suppose he'll be in that any more. He also played in his year's cricket team."

"I say good luck to him because he's doing what he wants to do, and if he comes back he'll probably be kicked out."

Another pupil, who described himself as a "very close friend", said: "He needed to get away to find his inner self. That's what he told me. He is one of the greatest people I've ever met."

The pupil has been at Rugby for three years, where fees for the 760 pupils are £4,240 a term.

Yesterday his father told

journalists who called at the family's isolated farmhouse at Askwith, near Otley in West Yorkshire: "I have absolutely nothing to say."

Graham Hedges, a maths teacher and director of communications at Rugby, said: "Naturally the school is very concerned for his wellbeing, and we await his return eagerly. I have no idea why he went."

"If he does return to school I am not sure what will happen. We will have to judge that if and when it happens. All we know at the moment is that he flew from Manchester to Bridgetown yesterday and that he has booked a return flight for December 3. We know of no reason why he would do this."

Ralph Middlebrook, coach at the Yorkshire Indoor Cricket School at Headingley in Leeds, said: "He is a big, strapping lad, fearsome in fact. Although he only came here when school allowed, he showed great promise as a quick bowler and I found him to be a pleasant, industrious lad. He is a bit of an all-rounder because he plays rugby as well. He put his heart and soul into training and I wouldn't like to tackle him in full flight."

## Lottery to offer jackpot of £25m

By CAROL MIDDLELEY

THE National Lottery, which has created 447 millionaires since its launch in 1994, will offer this weekend a guaranteed jackpot prize of £25 million, its biggest, to mark its third anniversary.

Camelot said the Saturday prize was likely to attract extra players, which could make the jackpot even higher.

More than 11,615,900,000 tickets have been sold since the National Lottery started and about £6.4 billion paid out in prizes. Sixty-five per cent of the population are regular players and the average spent on a game is £3.15.

Initial estimates put the sum raised for charity, heritage, arts, sports and the millennium celebrations at £9 billion. Despite the lottery's success, Camelot has been accused of making too much profit, milking money that could have bolstered good causes. Accusations of "fat cat" salaries have been levelled at the directors.

The five boards responsible for distributing the cash have also come under fire for awarding grants deemed distasteful or too politically correct.

The Government will soon publish the National Lottery Bill which, it hopes, will boost the game's image.

SOMETIMES IT'S EASIER TO TALK TO SOMEONE YOU DON'T LIKE.



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## Boys blind cat with laser pen



Susan Aiston and Jack, now blind

A PET cat has become the latest victim of a laser pen attack, after being blinded by a gang of boys.

Four boys, aged about 12, took turns to shine the laser into the cat's eyes. The attack, in a garden at Winton, Tyne and Wear, was witnessed by two younger boys who ran to try to help the cat. The gang threatened to use the pen on them too but they eventually alerted the pet's owner Susan Aiston.

She took the cat, called Jack, to a vet in Newcastle, who confirmed that the animal had lost its sight.

Mrs Aiston, who had taken the cat in as a stray, has reported the attack to the RSPCA. It has begun an investigation, but police say they cannot detain the

alleged culprits because the witnesses, aged 6, are too young to be reliable.

She said: "It is impossible for any decent human being to understand how anybody could inflict such deliberate cruelty on a helpless animal. Jack is a lovely, friendly, creature who would have happily gone to these little monsters as he was playing."

"The poor cat was screaming and must have been in appalling pain. The vet told me the backs of his eyes have been completely burnt out."

There have been several calls by MPs to ban laser pens, whose infra-red beam can be 100 times stronger than the sun's rays. Bus drivers and shop workers have been attacked.



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## Room at the top for People's Banquet

Andrew Pierce  
on why the royal couple will be dining with WPC, a farmer and a factory worker

DOWNING STREET'S celebrations for the golden wedding anniversary today will break with tradition with the first People's Banquet for the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh. Tony Blair, as part of his plans to modernise the institution of the monarchy, agreed with Buckingham Palace an informal tone for the lunch for 350 guests.

While Westminster Abbey will emphasise tradition with the largest gathering of kings, queens and minor royals since the Coronation, ordinary people who will take precedence by the side of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh at the banquet symbolise the changes which the Prime Minister is determined to effect on the Royal Household.

The royal couple will, if the weather permits, walk from pre-lunch drinks in Downing Street across Whitehall to the Banqueting House. The conventional, long top-table has been dropped. Two round tables, which seat ten, have taken their place with the Prime Minister and the Queen on one and Mrs Blair with the Duke of Edinburgh on the other. Diplomats, government figures and royalty have been stood down in favour of what Downing Street described yesterday as a "sprinkling of ordinary people".

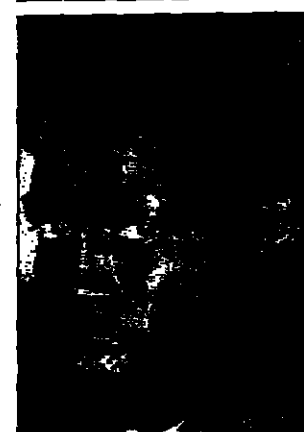
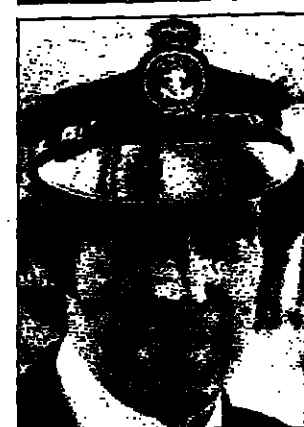
The jockey Walter Swinburn will sit beside the Queen at the top table. On the other side of the Queen will be Helen James, 25, from Llandegfan Anglesey, a guide leader for five years, who has been in the same unit since she was seven. She is a member of the Guide Association's Junior Council.

Others at the table will include WPC Gillian Shields, 34, from Wetherall, Carlisle, whose work in her local community on the troubled Raffles estate earned her the title of UK community police officer of the year, and Laurie Dennis, 53, from Gateshead, a team leader in the maintenance department at the Nissan factory at Washington, Tyne and Wear.

Cherie Blair will host the other lead table, with the Duke of Edinburgh on the one side with Brian Bevan, 50, the most highly decorated lifeboatman in the country. The other guests include Jill Willows, a farmer from Maltby, near Rotherham, and



Guests for lunch: clockwise, WPC Shields, community police officer of the year, the jockey Walter Swinburn, lifeboatman Brian Bevan, and the boxer Frank Bruno



Brian Bevan, 50, the most highly decorated member of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

Organisations which received invitations were encouraged to send lower ranking members rather than their "top brass".

Downing Street said: "The Queen has made clear that she wanted a guest list which reflected the contribution which people from ordinary walks of life had made to British life. It is part of her desire to recognise the contribution they have made."

The worlds of sport and entertainment will be represented by boxer Frank Bruno, sprinter Linford Christie, hurdler Sally Gunnell, England cricket captain Mike Atherton,

comedian Rowan Atkinson, singers Sir Cliff Richard and Shirley Bassey and the model Heather Mills, who won plaudits for her bravery after losing a leg in a traffic accident. All the other guests will be seated round tables

seating between eight to 10 to maintain an informal atmosphere.

WPC Shields, 34, who has three children, said yesterday: "It will be a very proud moment for me and the

community policing team in Carlisle. It is also a tribute to the people of the Raffles estate. The vast majority are lovely, honest, decent people."

Mr Dennis, 53, has two children and three grandchildren, and works in the maintenance department at Nissan's factory in Washing-

ton, Tyne and Wear. He found it hard to believe when the letter arrived from Downing Street announcing he was having lunch at the Banqueting House in the presence of the Queen. He said: "I must be like winning the lottery. I am in a state of shock."

Mr Bevan, 50, the lifeboatman on the second top table, said: "I am very proud and honoured. When I got the invitation three weeks ago I didn't realise the Queen and the Duke would be there. But last night I got a call from the Prime Minister's secretary telling me that I will be on one of the top tables with Mrs Blair and the Duke."

Jill Willows, who will be sitting beside the Duke of Edinburgh, farms 550 acres of arable land around Maltby, Yorkshire. She said: "I have never been to any royal event before."

Additional reporting by Joanna Bale and Paul Whittaker



Staff at the People's Palace restaurant examine a copy of the menu (salmon and beef Wellington with hazelnuts and shallots) enjoyed by the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh after last night's gala at the Royal Festival Hall.

### TIME FOR BED

VERY VERY FUNNY



DAVID BADDIEL

"Very, very funny..." - Roddy Doyle

"Imagine an episode of 'Men Behaving Badly' and written in the form of early Philip Roth and you get some impression of this confident debut by David Baddiel" - Terence Blacker, Mail on Sunday

"Wildly funny" - Independent on Sunday

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# Royal gossip reigns as the crowned heads come to town

THE royals of Europe have not had such an opportunity to catch up on family gossip in almost half a century. The gathering of more than 50 foreign royals, including seven monarchs, will be the biggest gathering of the extended clan since the Coronation.

After the Queen's golden wedding service at Westminster Abbey today, the Prince of Wales will take the throng of his distant cousins by boat to Greenwich for lunch at the Royal Naval College. Coaches will then transport them to Windsor Castle for a ball.

With such a crowd in town, it has not been possible to put everybody up at Buckingham Palace. Some will be staying at Windsor while the younger bloods are understood to be on board *Britannia* by Tower Bridge under the supervision of Prince Edward. Others, such as King Constantine and his family and Crown Prince Alexander of Yugoslavia, will stay at their London residences or with friends.

The Danish, Norwegian, Swedish, Spanish, Yugoslavian and Romanian royal families are descended, like the Queen, from the grandmother of Europe, Queen Victoria. The Bulgarian and Belgian houses are from Prince Albert's side, the Saxe-Coburgs, while the Grand Duke of Luxembourg is a little more distantly related to the Windsors, tracing his descent to George II. The only foreign royal family from out-

In charge or in  
exile, the Queen's  
guests have much  
to talk about,  
writes Damian  
Whitworth

side Europe is that of King Hussein of Jordan, who is represented by his sons, Crown Prince El Hassan bin Talal and Prince Abdullah, and their wives.

Even if the royals themselves struggle to put names to faces on first encounters, they will have plenty to talk about once the ice has been broken.

King Michael of Romania, the only crowned guest today who was also crowned and present at the wedding, may have mixed memories of 1947. He returned to his country afterwards to find that the Communists had seized power and he had to flee in the clothes he was wearing to Switzerland, where he now lives.

He will be accompanied by his wife, Queen Anne, and his daughter Princess Margarita, an old flame of Gordon Brown, the Chancellor. She is married to the memorably named Ruda Duda, who should get on famously with

Prince Edward. He is a lecturer at the Academy of Theatre and Film in Bucharest.

In these days of modernisation, the royal houses will have plenty of stories to swap. Some will provoke sympathy, others, perhaps, envy. As *Britannia* prepares to complete her final voyage, the Duke of Edinburgh may be a little green if that other passionate sailor, King Harald of Norway, speaks of his own royal yacht, a gift just a few years ago from his subjects.

As the guests admire the restoration of Windsor Castle, which the Queen paid for herself, Queen Margrethe II of Denmark might explain how it was that the recent £14 million overhaul of her Copenhagen palace was funded by the public purse.

If our Queen is looking for tips on 1990s style, she might have a natter with Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands, whose private wealth makes her one of the richest women in the world, but who never wears a crown and rides a bicycle.

The younger generation may whisper more scandalous yarns. Princess Martha-Louise of Norway, 26, was the first European royal to be cited as the "other woman" in the English High Court after her friendship with the show-jumper Philip Morris. Crown Prince Frederik of Denmark spent a night in a police cell when he was arrested on New Year's Eve 1991 for drinking and driving.

Many will have stories to tell of their ordeals at the hands of the press. Queen Beatrix's son, the Prince of Orange, was dubbed the Prince of Fun by the Dutch press. The 30-year-old bachelor was then targeted by the animal rights lobby, who complained about his love of boar hunting. They claimed that the beasts suffered unnecessarily because he was such a bad shot that he succeeded only in wounding them.

But the gathering should take heart from some tales. King Simeon of Bulgaria succeeded his father at the age of six in 1943 but was exiled by the Communists in 1946. He lives in Madrid, but when he returned to his native country last year he was given an ecstatic reception by half a million people who are now agitating for his permanent return.

Leading article, page 23



Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, at the Lord Mayor's luncheon at Guildhall yesterday

## 'Tolerance is essential to a marriage'

An edited version of the Duke of Edinburgh's speech at the Guildhall luncheon yesterday

WHEN there is lots to do, time seems to fly. It appears to us, at least, that we have been fairly busy over the last 50 years and the time has simply flashed past. Until, that is, you start looking back and try and recall what things were like 50 years ago and you begin to realise how much has changed.

I got back to this country from the Pacific in January 1946 and then in the autumn of 1947 we got married. It was a fairly drab world; the post-war recovery had hardly even begun and practically everything was still rationed. Everyone seemed to think that our wedding was a very happy occasion and brought a little colour back to life after the dreary war years. At any rate, we certainly thought so.

We were then fortunate to enjoy five 'happy years of fairly conventional married' life. That included two years with a home of our own in Malta while I was with the Navy. This period came to an abrupt end when the Queen had the melancholy duty of succeeding her father after his premature death in 1952. She was 25 and I was 30 and we had two small children. Life changed dramatically in many ways, but it had much less effect on our married life than I anticipated. After an interval of ten hectic years, we had two more children and

were more or less settled into our new way of life.

Like all families, we went through the full range of the pleasures and tribulations of bringing up children. I am, naturally, somewhat biased, but I think our children have all done rather well under very demanding circumstances and I hope I can be forgiven for feeling proud of them. I am also encouraged to see what a good start the next generation is making.

We would both like to acknowledge that it was only through the kindness and

consideration of so many people in all walks of life that we managed to get through those early daunting years of added responsibilities.

There are a number of positions in our society, which are greater than the individuals who happen to occupy them for the time being. The position of hereditary Head of State in a constitutional monarchy is just one of them. People who find themselves in such a position have to learn to accept certain constraints and to accommodate to that grey area of existence

between official and what is left of private life. But they also discover that it gives them quite exceptional opportunities to serve the interests of their communities and the nation at large.

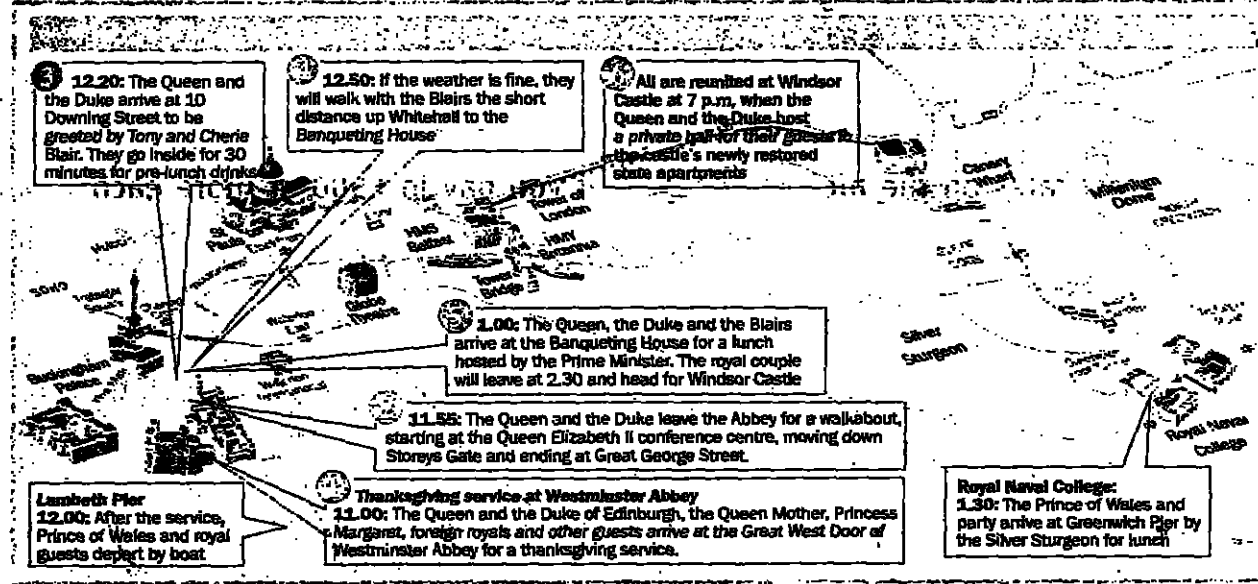
In such circumstances much can be done by an individual, but I am sufficiently old-fashioned to believe that a great deal more can be achieved by a partnership in marriage. It has been a challenge for us, but by trial and experience I believe we have achieved a sensible division of labour and a good

balance between our individual and joint interests.

After 50 years' experience, I find there is great temptation to give advice. The trouble is that no two marriages are alike. However, I think the main lesson we have learnt is that tolerance is the one essential ingredient of any happy marriage. It may not be quite so important when things are going well, but it is absolutely vital when the going gets difficult. You can take it from me that The Queen has the quality of tolerance in abundance...

### PRINCIPAL ROYAL GUESTS

The King and Queen of the Belgians  
Queen Fabiola of the Belgians  
King Simeon and Queen Margarita of Bulgaria  
Crown Prince and Princess of Bulgaria  
Prince and Princess of Yugoslavia  
The Queen of Denmark and the Prince Consort of Denmark  
Crown Prince of Denmark  
Princess Benedikte and Prince Richard of Wittgenstein-Berleburg  
The King and Queen of the Hellenes  
Princess Irene of Greece  
Crown Prince and Princess of Greece  
Prince Nikolaos of Greece  
Princess Philippa of Greece  
Princess Alexandra of Greece  
Princess Theodora of Greece  
Prince Abdullah and Princess Rania of Jordan  
Crown Prince El Hassan and Princess Sarrah of Jordan  
The Grand Duke and Grand Duchess of Luxembourg  
Prince Henri and Princess Maria Teresa of Luxembourg  
The Queen of The Netherlands and Prince Claus  
The Prince of Orange  
The King and Queen of Norway  
Princess Martha-Louise of Norway  
King Michael and Queen Anne of Romania  
Princess Margarita of Romania and Mr Ruda Duda  
The King and Queen of Spain  
The Prince of Asturias  
The Infanta Dona Elena and the Duke of Lugo  
The Infanta Dona Cristina and the Duke of Palma de Maiorca  
The King and Queen of Sweden  
Crown Prince Alexander and Crown Princess Katherine of Yugoslavia



# COUP

as they go

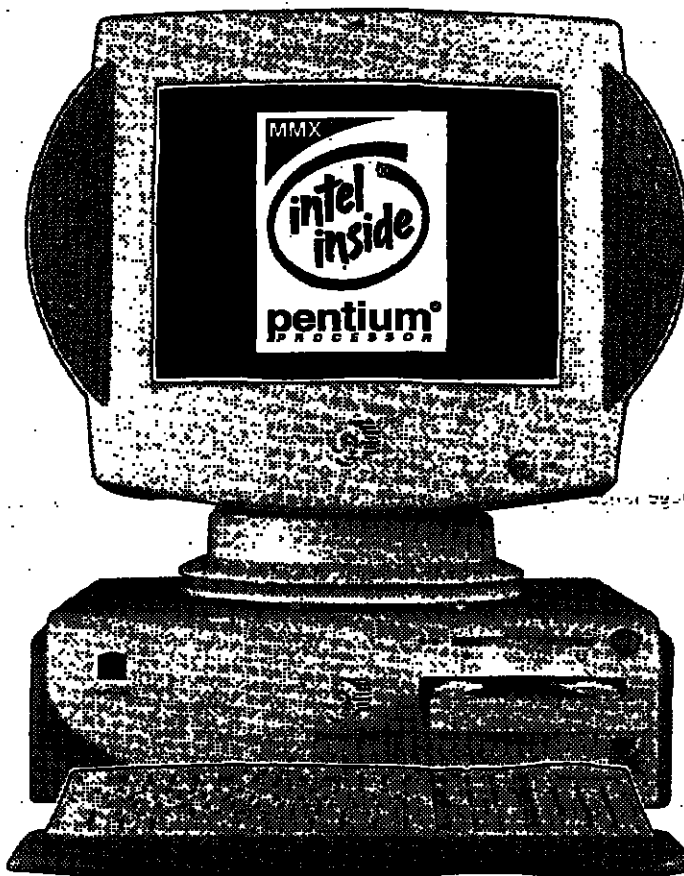
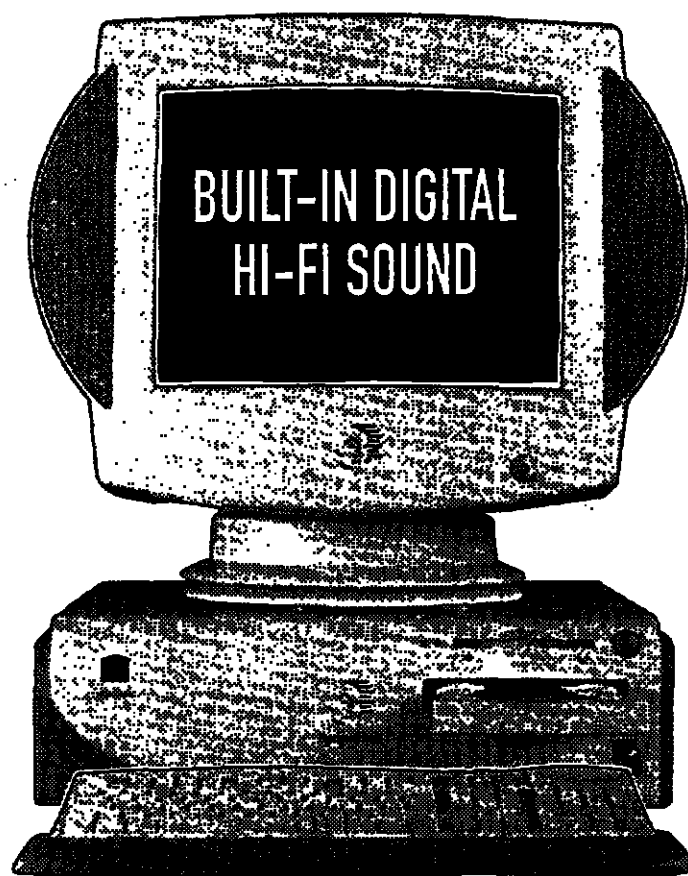
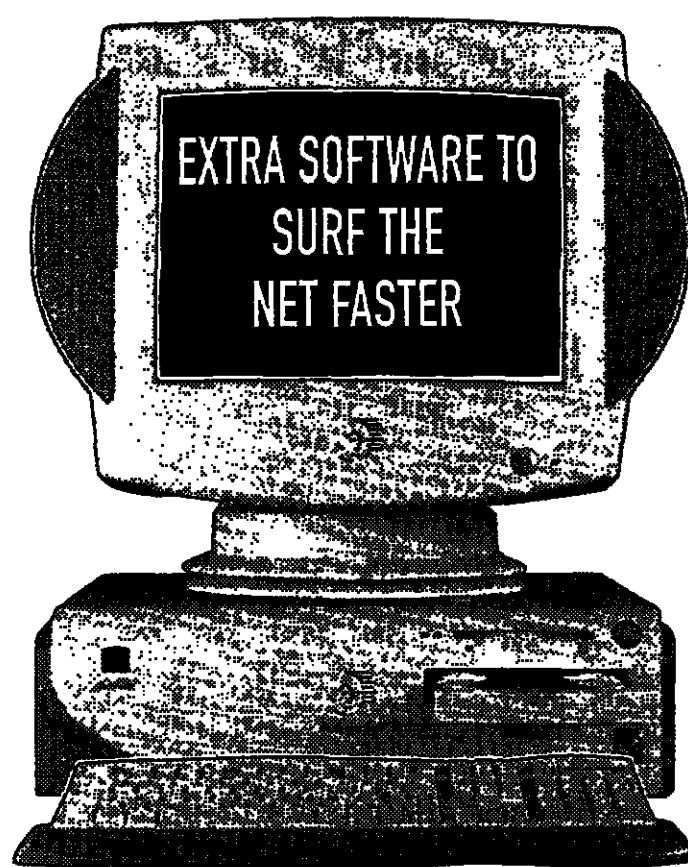
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# Court backs girl who refused adoption

11-year-old returned to her mother  
after foster parents of three years  
fail in all-or-nothing bid for another  
daughter. Frances Gibb reports

A GIRL aged 11 is to return to live with her natural mother on a council estate after rejecting adoption by the middle-class couple who have fostered her for three years.

The couple, both academics from the affluent north side of Oxford, said at a hearing last month that they would not continue to foster the child unless they were granted the right to adopt her. They were in the Court of Appeal yesterday to hear judges say that they would not order the adoption against the wishes of both the girl and her mother.

The decision means that the girl, at present living with her foster parents, will be returned to her mother, who lives on the sprawling Blackbird Leys estate in Oxford and who has successfully battled against heroin addiction and alcoholism.

The judges, by two to one, held that although the couple could continue to foster the girl, they would not sanction her adoption. In his judgment, Lord Justice Judge appealed to the couple to "find the necessary resources of character and humanity, and the simple affection for her, to allow the girl to continue the progress she has made towards a fulfilled and happy life from which she would have been excluded if they had not offered her their home as her home".

But Fiona Hay, their coun-

sel, told the court that the result of the judgment was that the foster parents were not prepared to keep the girl. "The fundamental problem is that a mere residence order is not acceptable to this couple and remains unacceptable, notwithstanding your lordships' judgment. They are extremely unlikely to change their views as a consequence."

The judges said there should now be a High Court hearing "of some urgency" to make arrangements for the girl's return to her mother.

The foster parents declined to comment after the hearing. The girl's mother welcomed the decision. Her solicitor, Mark Phillips, said: "She thinks the decision is the best one for her daughter and the one her daughter would have wanted." Mr Phillips added that despite the court proceedings, a feature of the case had been the "very good relationship between my client, the natural mother, and the adoptive parents".

The girl was fostered by the couple in 1994, the year after she was taken into care, aged 7. Lord Justice Ward said it came as a "bombshell" to them that she did not want to be adopted, although she had said as much throughout her placement. He added that the "unfortunate feature" of the placement was that the local authority, Oxfordshire County Council, "failed lamentably"



Lord Justice Judge, left, and Lord Justice Ward, centre, ruled against adoption while Lord Justice Simon Brown dissented



to prepare for it, and there was little awareness on its part of the girl's persistent cry that she wanted to live with her mother" and little work done to explore her true wishes.

The mother went to the Court of Appeal after a judge at Oxford County Court ruled that it was in the girl's best interests for her to be adopted. Judge David Morton Jack said that after the foster parents stipulated they would settle for nothing less than adoption that the mother's consent should "be dispensed with on the grounds that it

was being unreasonably withheld".

Mark Everall, QC, for the mother, told the Appeal Court that the county court judge had failed to give sufficient weight to the wishes of the mother, her daughter, or the local authority, which had given evidence that adoption was not in the child's best interests. The girl herself, who had "unquestioning love for her mother", felt she was being adopted against her will, but the judge had concluded her feelings were based on "longings and fantasy".

Yesterday, Lords Justices Ward and Judge, Lord Justice Simon Brown dissenting, overturned the county court ruling and substituted a "residence" order for the child to live with the couple, which they intend to defy. No sanction is available to stop them from defying the order.

Lord Justice Simon Brown, in an unusual request, asked to be told the final decision on the girl's future in six months' time so that the judges knew "what the upshot of it all is and how everyone is managing".

## From broken home to adult break-ups

THE girl's mother was the victim of a "tragic" upbringing, Lord Justice Ward said. "Her parents separated when she was young. She was sexually abused from the age of 5. As a result she lost contact with her mother, who was an alcoholic."

"She had minimal contact with her father. She had little formal education, truanting extensively from the age of 11 until leaving school at 15." She married at 16 and had two children. The marriage failed three years later "due to the

### THE MOTHER

husband's drinking and subjecting the mother to violence".

At 19, she formed a new relationship and had two further children. For three years there was relative stability. Then, encouraged by her partner, she started to experiment with drugs. By 23, she was a heroin addict, supported by crime. The girl in the court case suffered from withdrawal symptoms when she was born, weighing 5.1lb. The

mother and father were jailed when she was aged 4, and she was in a grandmother's care until the mother's release the next year. In 1992, the mother entered a refuge to escape her partner's violence. She turned to another man, who had his own drink and drug problems. In 1993, the girl, then 7, found him dead from an overdose. The mother was too incapable to do anything about it. It was the girl who

contacted emergency services. The mother's drunken behaviour continued, the judge said. The girl was removed in 1993 and a care order followed. Despite a rehabilitation plan, the mother relapsed, and the girl was removed in June 1994, aged 8.

Shortly afterwards, the mother began to live with another man, aged 41. He too abused drugs and alcohol, and had a criminal record including robbery, burglary and assault, but the couple made "commendable efforts to

change". They stopped drinking in January 1995. By July 1996, the mother had weaned herself off methadone, and the man was reducing his intake.

Together, they cleaned up and decorated their flat, the judge said. "For the first time, says the mother, she has found a partner who is prepared to participate in the responsibilities of family life." They have a daughter, born last year, and the couple have satisfied the local authority that she can be removed from the at-risk register. The mother is now 41.

## Stable family who offered everything

THE two academics are both doctors of philosophy and "living in comfortable circumstances with easy access to excellent schools," the judge said. They had lived together for many years in a stable relationship and have a daughter, now 14, but wanted to extend their family.

The man is 43 and the woman is 48. The judge said they were not, as a doctor said in evidence, "among those saintly people - few of us are - who are able to offer fostering to children in need."

They wanted a child who they could adopt into their family. One has total sympathy for that position. The girl in the case was not free for adoption when she was placed with the couple in December 1994, and adoption could not have been seen as a certainty. In planning meetings held by the social services' fostering and adoption panel, "the consensus" was that the legal security provided by adoption would be preferable, but the child's wishes would be influential.

### THE ACADEMICS

If she disagreed, then the court could make a residence order. The couple were aware of the possibility but it must have been remote, the judge said.

The couple and the girl's natural mother "soon established a good and mutually supportive relationship with each other", and the couple "saw the benefits of the girl having contact with the natural family, which was ar-

ranged four times a year". In October 1996 the couple filed their application to adopt. They married in order to qualify.

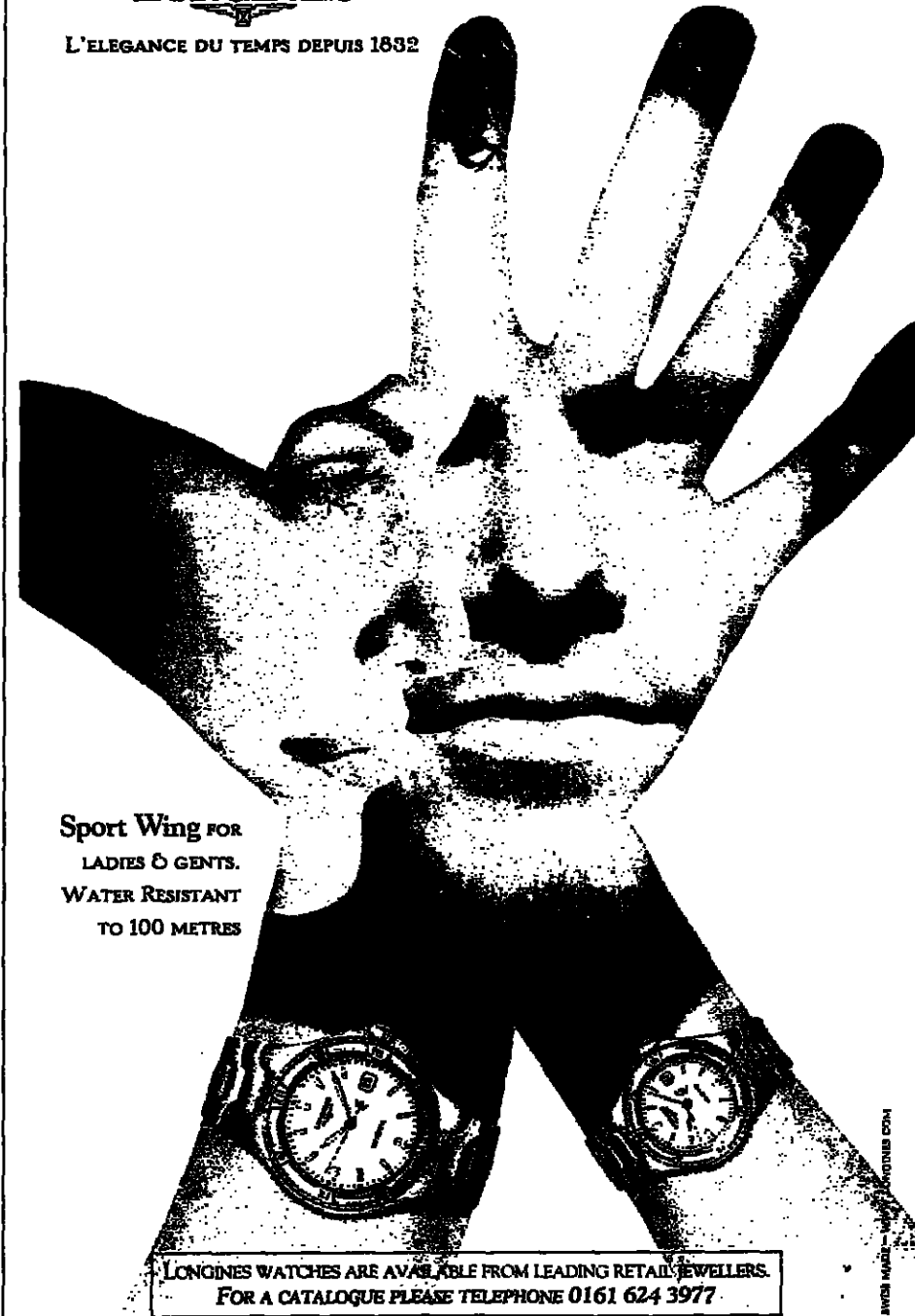
A report by the guardian for the girl said there was "no question of their commitment" to her stability and wellbeing. "She appears happy and relaxed with them despite all that has transpired" and had been "demonstrably affectionate". It

was difficult to praise the couple too much for their commitment and the changes they had brought in her life.

"This is demonstrated most powerfully in the progress she has made in school. Although in many respects the match between this initially rather unresponsive and deprived child from a very different background from the applicants does not appear a promising one, it is evident that there is considerable affection and understanding."

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## Children in care still suffering appalling abuse

By MARK HENDERSON

CHILDREN in care continue to face appalling sexual and physical abuse from staff, foster parents and peers, despite a succession of government inquiries, according to a report published yesterday.

*People like Us*, the report by Sir William Utting ordered in June after abuse scandals in homes in North Wales and London, found evidence that sexual child abusers were evading vetting procedures and causing misery for thousands of children in residential care and in foster homes. Recommendations made by previous inquiries aimed at rooting out abusers had not been fully implemented.

Children were sent to inappropriate homes because of a lack of places; runaway children were often returned to their abusers, and more than a third of those in care received little or no education. Private fostering and small residential homes and schools often escaped all regulation.

Sir William recommends setting up a national agency to oversee the care system, regulation of private fostering agencies and small residential homes, and an expansion of facilities.

Frank Dobson, the Health

Secretary, said he would chair a ministerial task force to consider the findings. "This report presents a woeful tale of failure at all levels to provide a secure and decent childhood for some of the most vulnerable children," he said in a Commons statement. "Elementary safeguards were not put in place or not enforced."

John Maples, the Shadow Health Secretary, said the Conservatives would give "positive and constructive consideration" to government moves to resolve the system's failings.

The 3,000 children in residential homes in England and Wales and the 33,000 with foster parents are at risk because vetting procedures fail to spot serial abusers who torment hundreds of victims. Sir William says that measures recommended by the Warner report into the care system in 1992, including rigorous checking of criminal records, employment history and references, had not been implemented in many homes.

Children in private foster care, which currently escapes local authority regulation, were "extremely vulnerable and at very considerable risk

of abuse". Those cared for at residential institutions with fewer than four residents were also at risk because such homes were exempted from the provisions of the 1989 Children Act.

Data protection laws prevented social services exchanging information on suspect carers, and staff who suspected colleagues of abuse feared victimisation by managers if they reported their misgivings, or found they were not believed or were ignored.

Staffing was a "chronic problem", training often inadequate, and a lack of choice was leading social services to place children in inappropriate kinds of care. Vulnerable children had been sent to homes where they were bullied by "fearsome" peers or foster siblings because of the poverty of care resources available to local authorities. Provision varied widely between councils.

Sir William, chairman of the National Institute for Social Work, makes 20 recommendations, including a national strategy to raise standards across the care sector and to protect children let down by the system.



Sir William Utting, who makes 20 recommendations, found those made earlier had not been fully implemented

Similar advice in the Warner report was ignored by the Government.

He says local authorities should ensure enough residential and foster care is available to provide correctly for every child; foster parents should be appointed in line with a new code of practice; and private fostering should be regulated. Unregistered

foster care should become a criminal offence. Other recommendations include requiring staff to raise concerns they may have about colleagues' behaviour, and allowing care agencies to exchange information on staff more freely.

Children's charities welcomed the report yesterday and said it was important that

its recommendations were implemented. "All children living away from home are vulnerable to abuse, and these measures are constructive and workable," Mike Taylor, director of children's services at the NSPCC, said. "What concerns me is that successive Governments have ordered these reports before and done little about them."

We can't let that happen this time."

The National Association for Foster Care said it supported Sir William's recommendations for recruitment and registration of private agencies.

*People like Us* (Stationery Office: £25). A free summary is available from PO Box 410, Wetherby, LS23 7NL.

## One third are left without education

MORE than a third of children in care or with foster parents are receiving no education, says the report. Education authorities and social services departments fail to co-operate over their needs, and head teachers concerned about league table positions are reluctant to admit pupils from problem backgrounds.

The establishment of grant-maintained schools independent of local education authorities is said to have compounded the problem by making it harder to involve schools in drawing up care strategies.

"It produces a scandalous situation in which the life prospects of these young people may be irretrievably damaged," says the report. Local authorities are urged to take a corporate approach, ensuring education and health needs as well as supervision and accommodation.

Care arrangements for the 110,000 children at independent boarding schools in England and Wales receive a largely clean bill of health, although a ban on corporal punishment is demanded, after evidence that brutal canings still take place on the margins of the public school network.

A Barnardo's survey this year found that 75 per cent of children in care left with no educational qualifications.

## £18m network of juvenile jails planned to counter criticism

THE Home Office is planning a network of jails for juveniles after the publication yesterday of a critical report by the Chief Inspector of Prisons on the treatment of offenders aged under 18.

Up to eight young offender institutions are to be converted to hold 2,600 teenagers aged 15-18, who often have to mix with older and more experienced offenders.

The £18 million proposal to detain juveniles separately from adults was announced yesterday as Sir David Ramsbotham, the Chief Inspector, called for all offenders under the age of 18 to be removed from jails and looked after by a

■ The Home Office is to convert up to eight young offender institutions after a report attacked the treatment of teenagers, Richard Ford writes

separate youth justice organisation. Its members would be drawn from the social services, probation service and voluntary organisations. He said that prisons were not equipped to handle teenage boys and girls, some as young as 15, or to tackle their problems and criminal behaviour.

Sir David condemned the condi-

tions in which many young offenders were detained "as a lottery", with too many locked in their cells for 23 hours a day with little education or exercise. In a survey of the treatment of young offenders in England and Wales, he discovered one institution where inmates were tracing pictures, and cutting out pieces from children's colouring

books and colouring in outlines drawn by others.

He said: "More damage is done to immature adolescents than to any other type of prisoners by current conditions. The vast majority of young people in custody need individual attention given to the problems which produced their criminal behaviour."

"If all they get is akin to being stored in a warehouse, then the chances of their reoffending, creating yet more victims, is very great indeed."

Sir David said his plan to remove under-18s from prison to be looked after by other bodies, such as social

services and voluntary organisations, was not a "soft option". He told a press conference at the Home Office in London: "The soft option is to do nothing. To lock people up for 23 hours a day is the easy option. The hard option is to challenge these people."

There are 2,643 youngsters aged 15-17 and 8,357 aged 18-21 in adult prisons or young offender institutions, according to the latest figures.

Richard Tilt, Director General of the Prison Service, said his officials were preparing plans for seven or eight jails, each holding about 300 teenagers aged 15-18, in England

and Wales. "We have started work to create a separate under-18 estate out of existing facilities by nominating certain young offender institutions as under-18s only," he said.

But he gave a warning that, by creating a separate estate for the 15-18 age group, some young offenders would be held further away from their homes. Mr Tilt said that it was estimated that the extra costs involved in providing a regime targeted at the teenagers would be about £18 million a year.

His figures are based on the current annual cost of the intensive programme developed at Thorn Cross young offender institution

near Warrington. That was £23,000 per year per place, compared with £16,000 in an ordinary young offender institution and £100,000 in some local authority secure accommodation.

Under the Warrington regime, young offenders have a daily 16-hour programme beginning at 6am. The regime includes cleaning duties, drill, education, anger management courses, physical education, working for charity and eventual work experience.

*Young Prisoners*: a thematic review by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for England and Wales (published by the Home Office)

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# Mystery of the trawler lost without trace

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

MYSTERY surrounded a trawler feared lost off Land's End last night. The vessel with four crew carried a satellite distress beacon designed to trigger automatically if it sank. So far, it has remained silent.

Coastguards called off the search yesterday for the 70ft Cornish vessel *Margaretha Maria*, which was due back into port at Newlyn on Monday night after a week's fishing. The owners appealed for the search to continue, but a coastguard spokesman said: "We have nowhere left to look."

The crew of the blue-and-white trawler included John Todd, who was 46 on Tuesday, and his son Kerry, 24, from St Buryan. John Todd's wife



Robert Holmes:  
vessel's skipper

Moir and younger son Niall, 21, were being comforted by relatives last night.

The vessel was skippered by Robert Holmes, 43, known locally as Scots Robbie. He has two sons aged 21 and 17, and a girlfriend, Rose Williams. The fourth missing crew member, Vincent Mar-

shall, from Penzance, is married with three young children. There had been no radio contact with the boat since she set sail on Tuesday last week.

A Nimrod aircraft from RAF Kinloss in Scotland scoured the 2,500 square miles of fishing grounds between 30 and 150 miles south west of Land's End on Tuesday and sighted debris. A helicopter from RAF Culdrose identified it as green fishing nets and red fish boxes, which could have been swept overboard from a number of fishing boats in recent heavy seas.

Other fishing boats and the fisheries protection vessel *HMS Barclay* joined the search, but with force-eight gales forecast and no specific area to search, coastguards have decided not to send the Nimrod out again.

Godfrey Adams, manager of Trelawney Fish, owners of the boat, said yesterday: "We are very disappointed the search has been called off. We understand the weather conditions are due to deteriorate later, but we did give the coastguards a smaller area we would have liked to see searched. It's far too early to cease the search."

"The crew are all very experienced fishermen who have been fishing out of Newlyn for some time. All are very good people. We are in



The women who wait from left, Moira Todd, Rose Williams and Tracy Marshall

constant touch with the crew's families. With all the rough weather, she may be holed up somewhere with a broken radio. We certainly hope so."

The coastguard spokesman said that they would continue to broadcast appeals for sightings of the missing vessel. He said: "We have called off the search because we don't know where else to look. It's possible the vessel is sheltering in a small harbour, but we simply don't know. We will continue the search by electronic means, trying to contact the trawler on the radio and

asking other vessels to keep a lookout for her." The Newlyn harbourmaster, Andrew Munson, said that there were reports that other vessels had been in radio contact with the *Margaretha Maria* while she was operating 30 to 40 miles south of her home port. The area has been hit by gale-force winds in the last few days, but other vessels continued to operate without difficulty.

## Newcastle kicks out football stadium proposal

BY PAUL WILKINSON

PLANS for a £65 million super-stadium to house the Newcastle United soccer team have been scrapped in the face of mounting opposition to the club's preferred site on greenbelt land close to the city centre.

Newcastle had hoped to build a continental-style sporting club encompassing the city's rugby and ice hockey sides as well as athletics and other sports.

But their chosen site at Castle Leazes Moor, close to their St James' Park ground, outraged local opinion, upset by the demise of a central green oasis which had been open to the public since medieval times. It is also within a conservation area.

Last night the city council, which had supported the scheme and offered assistance in drawing up a planning application, was being told the project was dead. The controlling Labour group had agreed to go against its own development plan for the city after Sir John Hall, the millionaire developer who was then club chairman, threatened to move out of the city to a site across the Tyne in Gateshead.

Before last night's meeting neither side would comment publicly on the plan's future.

It is understood that the club had thought the scheme would be popular and had not envisaged the huge level of opposition from local pressure groups such as No Business on the Moor and Friends of Leazes Park who were backed by the Friends of the Earth. They gathered 18,000 signatures on a petition opposing the scheme. The Northern TUC also came out against the development.

The club also feared a lengthy and costly public inquiry and business analysts felt the enormous cost to the recently floated organisation would hit its stockmarket valuation.

Further, with the arrival of pay-per-view television only a few years away, many observers questioned the need for a huge stadium when supporters could stay at home to follow matches.

It is understood that the club will redevelop St James' Park by adding an extra tier, increasing its current 36,500 capacity to around 45,000.

Lesley Harrison, of No Business on the Moor, said: "Hopefully this will be the end of them planning to build on Leazes Moor. Thousands of people go there every day and it is a popular attraction."

Football, pages 48, 49 & 52

## Open verdict on burnt mother

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

THE death of a mother, who was abducted by two men, bundled blindfold into a car, doused with petrol and then set alight on the steps of a church, may remain a mystery for ever, an inquest was told yesterday.

Barbara Mertens, 31, was found dead in a flat she shared with her common-law husband and two children in Birmingham, blindfolded and driven in a yellow Ford Escort by two men to Christ Church, in Eaton, Cheshire.

She suffered appalling burns and died in hospital 24 hours later on Christmas Eve, 1994, after giving detectives an account of what happened. But a senior police officer told the inquest in Macclesfield, Cheshire, that although the inquiry had generated 1,800 statements and 2,000 interviews, detectives were unable to corroborate her account. John Hibbert, the coroner,



Mertens was doused in petrol and set alight

said it was clear that Ms Mertens had died of burns but he recorded an open verdict "reluctantly" because there was insufficient evidence.

After the hearing Barbara Mertens, the dead woman's mother, made an appeal for witnesses to come forward. She said: "We were rather upset at the verdict but there couldn't be any other."

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**NEW 4**





An elderly couple drove nearly 100 miles from Portsmouth to BBC Thames Valley Radio in Caversham, Berkshire, to visit their local Web site. They had seen an advert inviting them to visit the BBC Web site, and imagined it was a building.

the film archive, said: "We very much hope that people who love and value British film will be persuaded to do their bit and help the archive. This 'hospital for sick films' has saved and restored numerous British greats."

Subject to availability and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. †Excludes Leather range



# Jowell struggles to justify tobacco sponsorship move

TESSA JOWELL has been summoned to a Commons hearing next week after failing to satisfy a committee of MPs yesterday on why the Government is backing the exemption of Formula One from a tobacco sponsorship ban.

The Public Health Minister was given a rough ride by the European Legislation Select Committee, which demanded that she return to be cross-questioned for a further two and a half hours at a standing committee that all MPs can attend.

The decision came after Ms Jowell admitted that the Government did not know what proportion of Formula One's income was dependent on tobacco sponsorship and confirmed that health ministers had not met representatives from other sports.

Britain will argue for a permanent exemption for Formula One when European health ministers meet on December 4 to discuss the EU directive that would ban tobacco sponsorship of sport. However, Ms Jowell hinted that the Government would not vote against the directive if it did not contain the permanent exemption.

Yesterday she faced a series of difficult questions from both Tory and Labour members of the 16-strong committee. But Jimmy Hood, the Labour chairman, made sure that she was never seriously in trouble. When Tories persistently asked questions which she struggled to answer, he intervened to take questions from other MPs.

**Committee of MPs requires minister to undergo more questioning, reports**

**Jill Sherman**

The chivalrous Mr Hood also took exception when the Eurosceptic Bill Cash (C, Stone) asked Ms Jowell whether she had consulted her husband, David Mills, who has connections with the motor racing industry. Mr Mills, a lawyer, resigned as a non-executive director of the Formula One company Benetton Formula on May 20.

Mr Hood tried in vain to deter Mr Cash. Ms Jowell, stony faced, eventually replied: "I would simply say that my husband's previous association with Formula One has been entirely disclosed to the Permanent Secretary and to the Cabinet Secretary. The correspondence is with the Permanent Secretary and the discussion about this directive has been with officials and other ministers."

Earlier Ms Jowell insisted that the Government's present negotiating position was still to exempt Formula One permanently from the ban. But she later hinted that the exemption could be limited if this proved to be the only way to reach a

common position. She made clear that other countries such as Germany, Austria, Greece, Denmark and The Netherlands were also planning to block the EU directive.

She was asked by Norman Baker (Lib Dem, Lewes) whether she was advocating a permanent exemption or simply reporting discussions taking place elsewhere.

She replied: "Our position is that we are seeking an exemption for Formula One from the directive, which means that Formula One would be specifically exempted from the directive."

Quentin Davies (C, Grantham and Stamford) challenged Ms Jowell on why the Government had not sought to discover Formula One's dependence on tobacco sponsorship. "I can't understand how you could make a decision that was rational, or responsible or that was fair based on contrasting the different degrees of dependence of different sports on tobacco sponsorship without having discovered the actual degree of dependence — that's to say the proportion of their total income — which Formula One had," he said.

Ms Jowell replied: "The concern that we have is about the visibility of advertising... It's not so much the spending, the money that tobacco companies pay to sport... it's the fact that in return for sponsorship money they get advertising."

Leading article, page 23



Tessa Jowell setting out for the committee meeting yesterday

## Basic state pension may be replaced

By Jill Sherman

THE Government presented its proposals yesterday for a new "stakeholder" pension, which could become a compulsory scheme replacing the present state pension.

The stakeholder pension, intended as a supplement to the basic state scheme, is aimed at the self-employed, part-timers, the low paid and workers on short-term contracts. The idea is to offer an option cheaper than the present personal pensions through pooling savings in schemes based on an industry or occupation.

Several organisations that responded to an initial consultation on pensions have warned the Government that the scheme cannot work unless it is compulsory. Frank Field, the Welfare Minister, is also in favour of compulsion, but this would mean phasing out the state earnings-related pension, which Labour, in its manifesto, pledged to retain "for those who wished it".

A consultation document issued yesterday skirts round the issue but confirms that ministers are considering compulsion. It says: "The Government will respond on the issue of compulsion, as on all major issues raised in the review in due course."

The document also details a proposed "Giltlink" Pension for those unable to contribute to a second pension, such as long-term carers.

## Oxbridge safe with us, says minister

By Polly Newton

THE Government will protect educational standards at Oxford and Cambridge whatever the outcome of a review into funding of the two universities, a minister said yesterday.

Kim Howells, the junior Education Minister, made the promise at the end of a Commons debate on the grant paid annually to Oxford and Cambridge to meet the cost of their collegiate tutorial system.

The Government has asked the Higher Education Funding Council to report before it decides whether to scrap the extra payments, which total some £35 million a year. Critics of the proposal argue that it would reduce the quality of teaching at Oxford and Cambridge, but their opponents say that the additional funds allow an elitist system to continue at the expense of other universities.

The debate was initiated by Evan Harris (Lib Dem, Oxford), who said that the whole of British higher education would be harmed if standards at the two "brand leaders" fell.

But Dr Howells told MPs: "We do not do anything to endanger standards of excellence at Oxford and Cambridge."

### IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY in the Commons: trade and industry questions; Public Accounts Committee reports; short debate on part-time pay; Health Secretary, Mr. H. Smith, reports treatment by doctors and nurses of terminally ill patients.

## Employment summit offers more than well-meaning waffle

THE employment summit of European leaders in Luxembourg should not just be dismissed with a cynical shrug as yet another time-wasting exercise in well-meaning international waffle. Of course, the summit will not of itself create any jobs. But it does mark a significant shift in attitudes within the European Union, away from Brussels-led big spending programmes towards national policies monitored on an EU-wide basis.

In the past, such job summits have been seen in Britain as attempts by the Commission — notably when Jacques Delors was President — to extend subsidies

and create expensive programmes. These foundered on opposition from Germany, as well as Britain, on budgetary grounds.

At the same time, the Major Government's repeated public attacks on the European social model irritated other countries — especially France. Ministers flaunted the Anglo-American approach in face of Continental views about "social solidarity", even though policymakers privately sympathised with Mr Major's calls for greater flexibility, competition and deregulation.

The Blair Government therefore came to office at a time when

policy had already begun to shift in the rest of Europe. Tony Blair and Gordon Brown have been able to bridge the gap with other countries, both in rhetoric, by emphasising social cohesion as well as flexible markets, and, in substance, by putting forward proposals for a more active government role in getting people off welfare and encouraging what is now called "employability".

The new strategy, agreed by finance and employment ministers on Monday, matches the approach adopted in the run-up to monetary union, whereby broad EU-wide guidelines are set out, in this case

### RIDDELL ON POLITICS

for improving labour market flexibility and training. The idea of formal targets for creating jobs and reducing unemployment has been rejected at German insistence, but each country will have to produce an action plan setting out how it will encourage entrepreneurship, employability, adaptability and equal opportunities. There will be no additional money and only a limited reallocation of budgets. The results will be re-

viewed at the Cardiff summit next year. Mr Blair and Mr Brown can fairly point to the influence of their ideas and policies.

We will see how all this is presented at the end of the summit. There is always a danger in Britain of exaggerating the significance of talk by European ministers about social "solidarity" and "social partners". Both the Jospin and Prodi governments regard this as necessary to persuade trade unions to accept change, including welfare and labour market reforms. That is why the commitments in France and Italy to a 35-hour working week should not

be taken at face value. Of course, there are still big differences in attitudes, but the Commission and many member countries now accept that much of the 18 million unemployment in the EU is because of structural rigidities.

The question is whether these moves threaten competitiveness. Mr Blair has been keen to ensure that the social cohesion agenda does not produce extra business costs and new regulations; and he is resisting Brussels proposals on mandatory consultation for business. The Government has already done a lot for the unions, by signing the social chapter, propos-

ing a minimum wage, and promising changes in the law on union recognition. The CBI opposes some aspects, but, in general, has accepted Mr Blair's assurances.

The new approach to be agreed at the Luxembourg summit is, of course, part of the preparations for monetary union. The irony is that, despite the Government's belief that Britain will not be ready for some time to join EMU, we already have a more flexible labour market than elsewhere in Europe and already fulfil most of the employment guidelines.

PETER RIDDELL

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## German leader 'spied for East'

Bonn: The so-called "man without a face", the former East German spy master Markus Wolf, has identified the late statesman Franz Josef Strauss as a key Cold War informant (Deborah Colcutt writes). Wolf, 74, told the liberal *Süddeutsche Zeitung* that Strauss, the founder and former leader of the Christian Socialist Union — the sister party to Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats — acted alone and was not paid. "Strauss was always around when there was good business to be done," Wolf said. "In his time as Nuclear Power Minister in Adenauer's Cabinet, Strauss apparently offered East Germany nuclear material." He died in 1988, when he was Bavaria's premier. Wolf was this year convicted of three Cold War kidnappings and given a two-year suspended jail sentence.

## Paris police swoop on £100m rag trade 'scam of century'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

HUNDREDS of police officers have launched dawn raids in the Sentier clothing district of Paris in an operation to break up a £100 million fraud ring within the French "ready-to-wear" industry. At least 80 people were in custody yesterday, after about 300 police officers moved into the warren of wholesale clothing outlets, manufacturers and boutiques in the city's 10th arrondissement early on Tuesday. The investigation, led by Jean-Pierre Albert and Isabelle Prevost-Desprez, both magistrates, has targeted about 60 clothing firms in the Sentier district, but as many as 700 companies may be involved in the fraud, which one investigator called "the scam of the century".

Using a system of false billing and fake companies, the ring is believed to have defrauded at least 17 banks and other institutions of up to Fr1 billion (£100 million). Last July a group of ten banks tipped off legal authorities that Fr350 million francs had not been accounted for. One investigator said the ring's technique was "as old as the hills". The bogus companies allegedly presented fictitious receipts and bills from other fake companies to the banks, on the basis of which they extracted credit and cash amounting, in some cases, to as much as £1 million each. Police are also investigating whether bank and credit company staff were accomplices. The banks, employing private investigators, initially have identified 300 "suspect" clothing companies, but judicial investigators believe that as many as 400 other companies, involved in a second fraud ring, may have taken part in the ruse indirectly. Most of those under arrest on suspicion of organised theft, fraud and receipt of stolen goods are clothing company owners, whose homes were raided in simultaneous

police operations. Some "criminal fires" at warehouses in the Sentier district are also being investigated in connection with the alleged fraud. Hundreds of documents, files and computer disks were confiscated. "This evidence will be examined in the coming weeks to try to establish the exact dimensions of the theft," a police source said. The Paris financial investigations group has identified a number of suspect transactions involving the transfer of large amounts of money through international financial agencies in Britain, Belgium and Austria. Some of the defrauded banks believe that the operation was the work of an organised criminal cartel. "It is hard to believe that such a well-planned affair, involving such a quantity of money, could have been carried out simply to benefit a few individuals," a bank legal director told *Le Parisien* newspaper.



Flags from the European Union countries fly in Luxembourg to herald the special jobs summit starting today

## Blair to prescribe 'caring' cure for EU unemployed

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

TONY BLAIR will offer the best medicine for European unemployment when EU leaders gather today for a politically risky summit in Luxembourg. The number of jobless is seen as the most glaring failure of the European Union. The Government, breaking with the usual Euro-script, in which Britain plays the reluctant partner, is enthusiastic about a prescription that Germany and several other states have accepted through gritted teeth. The decision to seek a common strategy for curbing the jobless rate, now at 18 million or 10.6 per cent of the EU workforce, "amounts to a major breakthrough in the way that Europe looks at employment and employability", according to Gordon Brown, the Chancellor. After years of resistance to Anglo-Saxon-style reforms, ministers insist Britain is winning the argument and is well-placed, with its EU presidency next year, to nudge Europe towards flexible labour markets and welfare reforms. Although the Luxembourg recipe has been "precooked" by EU ministers, there is likely to be tension between Britain and France, the other big supporter of EU-wide action on jobs. France's left-wing

Government wants the summit to shore up the old European social model against the ravages of the global free market. The tension was highlighted yesterday by Pierre Moscovici, the French Minister for Europe, who said that the summit would help Europe to resist Anglo-Saxon "liberalism" and help to create "a Europe of strong intervention for employment". He hoped, he said, that Britain could be prevailed upon to fall in with a common European tax level. Most EU governments have been playing down the prospects of an EU-level remedy to a chronic unemployment rate at least double that of the United States, Japan and Britain. "It will be the start of a process, an evolution which will afterwards be impossible to stop," Romano Prodi, the Italian Prime Minister, said yesterday. Preparing for the summit, the 15 governments have diluted an ambitious scheme, proposed by Jacques Santer, the President of the Commission, to have the EU commit itself to creating 12 million jobs in five years. Instead they have focused on objectives for modernising the workforce through training and the redirection of welfare payments, and easing the burden on business.

## HOW TO AVOID A PENALTY



### Who does Self Assessment affect?

Self Assessment affects everyone who receives a tax return, including the self employed, company directors, business partners and people with more complicated tax affairs. If you received a tax return this year and you haven't filled it in yet, you must do so. It won't 'go away'.

### How do I know how much tax to pay?

If you do not receive a calculation from your tax office saying how much tax you owe, you must do your own tax calculation based on the figures in your return. The Tax Calculation Guide which came with your tax return will show you how to do this.

### Why is January 31st important?

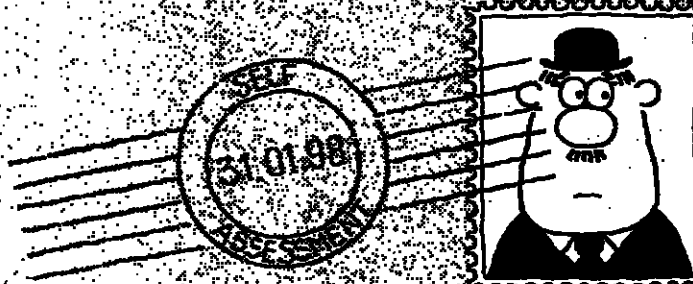
We must have received your completed tax return and tax payment by 31st January 1998 at the latest. If you do not meet the deadline there is an automatic £100 penalty and you will have to pay interest on any tax you owe. And if you have not paid by 28th February you will have to pay a 5% surcharge on top of the tax and interest.

### How can I get help?

If you employ a tax adviser, get in touch. Alternatively, contact your tax office. The phone number is at the top of your tax return. If you can't get through, or it is outside normal office hours, the Self Assessment Helpline is open on 0645 000 444.\*

IF YOU HAVE ALREADY SENT IN YOUR RETURN - THANK YOU.  
IF YOU HAVE NOT - DON'T DELAY - 31ST JANUARY MEANS 31ST JANUARY.

Web address: [www.open.gov.uk/tax/ra/](http://www.open.gov.uk/tax/ra/) \*Calls are charged at local rates.



**Vital information**  
to help you deliver  
a first class tax return

## Nato puts bill for expansion at \$1.3bn

By MICHAEL EVANS  
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE expansion of Nato with the inclusion of Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic in 1999 will cost only \$1.3 billion (£860 million) over ten years, the top alliance commanders have estimated after a long investigation.

This figure, which dramatically contradicts the Pentagon's estimate of \$27 billion to \$35 billion over 13 years, has been produced by General Wesley Clark, the American Supreme Allied Commander Europe, and Admiral Harold Gehman, the American Atlantic commander. Their findings were approved by Nato's Military Committee on Monday. The costs will be met by the present 16 Nato members and the three new ones. The new members will also be expected to spend up to \$3.5 billion of their own funds over the first two years after accession to upgrade their armed forces and equipment to Nato standards, sources said.

The Pentagon had originally included in its costings the need for all existing European members of the alliance to improve their rapid-deployment capabilities. However, the two Nato commanders concluded that the existing European alliance members had sufficient capabilities to help Poland, Hungary or the Czech Republic in the event of an Article 5 emergency, and that the new member states had adequate airfields and ports to cope with reinforcing Nato troops.



Chubais remains First Deputy Prime Minister

## Book costs Chubais finance role

FROM ROBIN LODGE  
IN MOSCOW

ANATOLI CHUBAIS, the Russian First Deputy Prime Minister, will give up his post as Finance Minister in an attempt to appease opposition politicians demanding his dismissal in the wake of a scandal over a \$90,000 (£53,000) book advance, officials said yesterday.

Sergei Yastrzhembsky, the presidential press secretary, said that Mr Yeltsin and Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, had agreed that the posts of First Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister should no longer be held by the same person. The two men are due to meet today, after which a formal announcement is expected.

Opposition deputies in the State Duma had threatened to cancel a debate on next year's budget unless Mr Chubais was sacked. They agreed finally not to link the budget with personnel issues and the budget debate is now scheduled for Friday.

that the comes

Reportin



# "At B&Q you can be sure that the wood for doors like this one comes from well-managed forests."

Forest protection is a key environmental priority and one to which as buyers of timber, we at B&Q and you can make an important contribution. We can all choose to buy timber from well-managed forests and the most effective way to do this is to only buy timber which has been certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (the FSC).

It is our target that by the end of 1999 we will only buy wood and wood based products which have been certified by the FSC. This advertisement gives you the reasons why.

## What do we mean by well managed?

To be well managed a forest must have strict management plans in place which consider the protection of habitats, meet the needs of the people who depend on the forests and ensure a continuous yield of timber. The challenge is reassuring ourselves that these plans are relevant for the particular forest and are being fully implemented. It is impossible for B&Q to visit all the forests where its wood originates. (At B&Q our wood comes from over 40 countries and 400 forest regions).

For over seven years B&Q has been investing considerable resources into resolving this dilemma. Why? Because we know that our customers would not want to buy products which cause unnecessary harm to the environment.



Dr. Alan Knight  
Environmental Policy Controller



**A** Colonial 6 Panel  
Knotty Interior  
Pine Door  
78 x 30 x 1 1/2 ins.

**B** SA Obscured  
Knotty Pine  
Glazed Door  
78 x 30 x 1 1/2 ins.

**C** Carolina Stained  
Hardwood  
Exterior Door  
78 x 33 x 1 1/2 ins.

**D** Kentucky Stained  
Hardwood  
Exterior Door  
78 x 33 x 1 1/2 ins.

## Action over past seven years

Between October 1990 and October 1991 extensive surveys of our existing supply base were undertaken, involving hundreds of visits and instructions were sent to all our suppliers to stop making claims of sustainability on their packaging which could not be proved. We looked for partners with whom we could work. The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) was willing to help us resolve the problem.

We both recognised that a simple boycott of tropical timber was not the answer since it was unfair on the tropical producers and would not address the issue of poor forestry in non-tropical countries.

In September 1991 B&Q set the following targets - by the end of 1993 to only buy timber from suppliers who could identify the source forest region and by the end of 1995 to only buy timber which was, according to our own judgement, from well-managed forests. At the time our stance was controversial, attracting criticism from both the environmental movement (who still believed we should boycott tropical timber) and industry.

Recognising that our own judgement would not be sufficient in the long term, we had earlier joined a group called the Forest Stewardship Council which was already discussing the concept of independent certification of forests and timber products. Before long we became active players to



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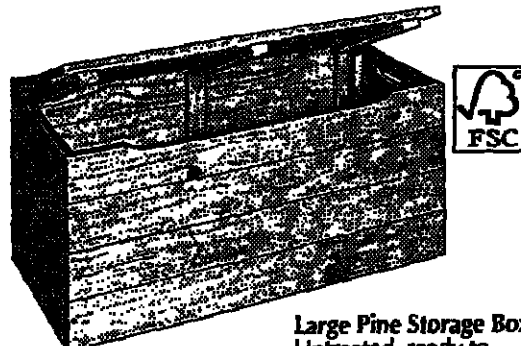
help it become established, with our environmental specialist, Alan Knight, serving on the interim board between 1992 and 1994.

Satisfied with our progress for both the 1993 and 1995 targets, we reported our results publicly in the form of maps and reports.

By May 1995 we were ready to set the target that from the end of 1999 we will only buy timber products with FSC certification.

Our progress to date gives us confidence that our target is achievable. We already have over 600 individual items which have been certified by the FSC. These come from countries as diverse as Malaysia, Poland, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka as well as the U.K.

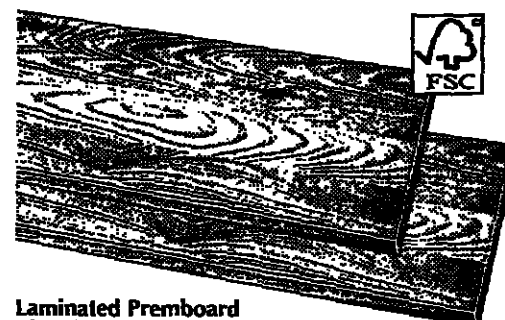
Each of our buyers receives monthly reports which summarise the progress in their product range and the commitment of their suppliers. There are still many political and practical hurdles to cross before we achieve our target but the momentum with individual suppliers and relevant organisations in many countries across the world gives us the confidence that we can succeed.



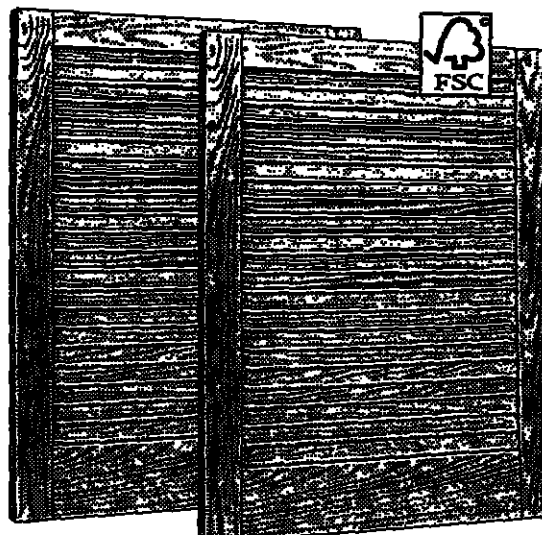
Large Pine Storage Box  
Untreated, ready to  
assemble.  
800 x 385 x 385mm.

## You are part of the supply chain

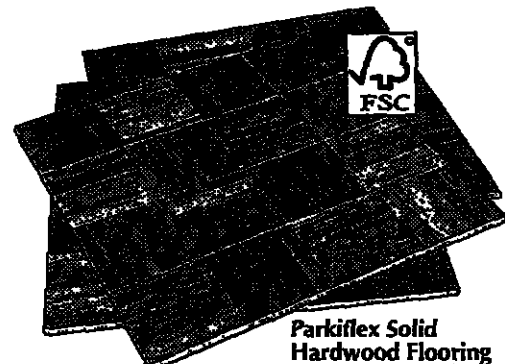
You, along with the producers, suppliers and us the retailer, are part of what we call the supply chain. When you see products with the FSC trade mark you know you can buy products which come from forests which are well managed. So you too can make a difference.



Laminated Preboard  
Ideal for wall units, shelves,  
table tops and fitted furniture.  
Available in various sizes.



Pine Closed Louvre Doors  
Louvre doors are ideal for cupboards or wardrobes.  
Available in various sizes.



Parkflex Solid  
Hardwood Flooring  
'Parawood'. Pack of 3  
panels. Covers 0.68sq.m.



Timbertile Solid  
Hardwood Flooring  
'Rhodesian Teak'. Pack of 3  
panels. Covers 0.68sq.m.



Shell Handle  
Available in sanded  
oak, medium oak,  
pine or mahogany  
effect.



Shaped D Handle  
Available in sanded oak, medium oak,  
pine or mahogany effect. Pack of 2.

## A big thanks to our suppliers

Finally B&Q would like to thank all our suppliers and their suppliers for the efforts they have made to achieve our targets (in particular those who have already achieved FSC certification and those close to it).

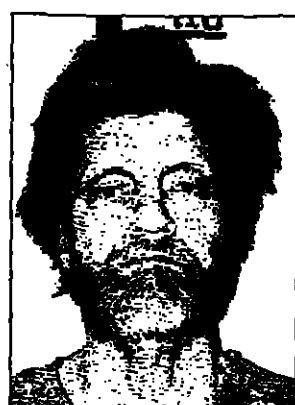
We would also like to acknowledge the special achievements of: Premium Timber, Chindwell & Co, Rectella, Charten Aldred, Douglas Kane, Alpine Trading, Western Cork, Bioregional Development Group, Charbroil and Mosley Stone. We know that our success is largely down to their efforts. We also acknowledge the efforts made by many others who are not suppliers (WWF) and look forward to the final push to get all our timber products sustainable.

Offers may vary at B&Q Warehouses and B&Q Depots. Sizes shown are approximate. Products subject to availability, please phone to check availability. WWF-UK is a registered charity number 201707.

# B&Q

## Reporting on our impact on the environment.





Kaczynski told doctor: "You are the enemy"

## Bomber suspect dismisses doctors

FROM GILES WHITTELL  
IN LOS ANGELES

THE man on trial as the Unabomber has dismissed two psychiatrists who are seeking to show that he is mentally ill and therefore not responsible for bombings that could cost him his life.

In a pre-trial interview, Theodore Kaczynski, 55, "looked me in the face and said, 'You are the enemy,'" Dr David Foster, a defence psychiatrist, wrote in an affidavit. He and another psychiatrist working for the defence were barred by Mr Kaczynski from seeing him again after trying to broach the subject of his mental symptoms.

Faced with what one expert has called "a defence attorney's nightmare", Mr Kaczynski's embattled legal team is staking everything on an "insanity defence" to save the suspected serial bomber from the death penalty. However, his refusal to talk to doctors could help him: a reluctance to think of oneself as ill is a classic symptom of the paranoid schizophrenia from which Dr Foster and others believe he suffers.

"They think something else caused their problems, like bad parenting or bad government or too many drugs — anything but being labelled crazy," Professor Ira Glick, of Stanford University, said.

In the meantime, jury selection in his Sacramento trial is in its second week and his lead lawyer is fighting the case in the press. "This is not a man who is feigning mental illness," Anthony Biscupolo said. "This is a sick man who is feigning mental health."

## Car bomb at Indian film studio kills 23

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

A CAR bomb killed at least 23 people in the southern Indian city of Hyderabad yesterday, the worst atrocity in years of violent rivalry between politicians' armed gangs. It demonstrated the depth of underworld involvement in the Telugu-language film industry, a huge money-spinner. As in Bollywood, the Bombay-based Hindi film industry, many movies in Telugu are financed by thugs.

The bomb's target was probably Paritala Ravi, a politician-cum-film producer who was emerging from celebrations inside a studio marking the start of a production. A six-man television film crew waiting in the street for the emerging stars all died. Many of the wounded lost limbs, and the death toll is certain to rise.

The explosion happened on a packed street by the D Rama Naidu studio, which had been besieged by people hoping to catch a glimpse of film personalities. Mr Ravi was injured, but not seriously. The bomb, packed into one of many cars parked near the studio, left wreckage over a wide area.

Mr Ravi is a former left-wing guerrilla with many political and business enemies. A number of regional politicians in India have small private armies to advance their commercial and political interests, as well as to elimin-

ate rivals and protect themselves and key supporters.

Now an influential member of the Andhra Pradesh state legislature, Mr Ravi renounced guerrilla warfare a decade ago and was pardoned in return for his surrender. The Maoist People's War Group, to which he belonged, hates him. But the organisation, which is fighting for a separate communist state carved out of the southern state of Andhra Pradesh, was probably not involved in the attack.

The blast, triggered by remote control, injured about 35 people, including Mohan Babu, a popular Telugu actor and member of the Rajya Sabha, the upper house of the Indian parliament. His condition is not life-threatening.

Many southern Indian film stars have become influential politicians, building huge financial empires through almost unbridled power. Some, however, have had spectacular crashes. J. Jayalalitha, once the heartthrob of Tamil Nadu, is fighting to stay out of jail over allegations of massive corruption when she was the state's chief minister.

Yesterday seven policemen died in a landmine blast 140 miles north of the city, the fourth attack of its kind in the past two years by the People's War Group.



Christine Alexander, 12, after being freed by a Taiwanese soldier over the kidnapping and murder of a television star's teenage daughter, and three other killings. The 24-hour Taipei siege began when Chen

## Taiwan hostage family released

Chen-hsing took hostage Edward Alexander, a South African defence attaché, and his family. Chen released

him and daughter Melanie, hurt in crossfire. Christine and a Taiwanese foster baby were freed next, then her mother, Anne, as Chen surrendered on winning an inquiry into the conviction of murder accomplices. (AP)

## Laptop takeover to put Texas in class of its own

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN  
IN NEW YORK

TEXAS is on the verge of adopting a plan for schools that would replace textbooks with laptop computers.

With the administration facing a bill of \$1.8 billion (£1.1 billion) over the next six years for books, the head of the Texas Board of Education says it would be cheaper and more efficient to

equip the state's 3.7 million students with laptop computers and CD-Roms. Jack Christie, the board's chairman, said computer companies would "almost certainly" be willing to give Texas "a volume discount for four million computers". Once the investment was made, the computer software that carried the curriculum could be updated cheaply and frequently. "Why wait for six, seven, eight years to update

history textbooks? The students need them today," he said. "A year ago, we replaced social studies books that still had Ronald Reagan as President, the Berlin Wall standing and the Soviet Union as one country. With laptops you can upgrade them for \$125 — besides, children would have access to more current information in a means that is so much more interesting and attention-getting than the traditional

textbook." A Bill to introduce the change by 2000 will be presented in January. Mr Christie has powerful support. Ted Bivins, a Republican senator for Austin, Texas, district, claimed to speak for "many" when he said: "The days of textbooks — and teachers standing at the front of the class and rapidly changing." Predictably, however, publishers of textbooks oppose the "laptop takeover".

## WORLD IN BRIEF

### Slander trial for Pakistan leader

Islamabad: Pakistan's Supreme Court has indicted Nawaz Sharif, the country's Prime Minister, for contempt of court (Zahid Hussain writes). Mr Sharif, the first prime minister to face the court, will be tried on a charge of making slanderous remarks at a press conference last month against Sajjad Ali Shah, the chief justice. He is alleged to have publicly criticised a ruling by Justice Shah, a criminal act in Pakistan. Mr Sharif denies contempt, but if found guilty could be disqualified from office. The issue has provoked a constitutional crisis in Pakistan and there is speculation that Mr Sharif will step down.

### Refugees flee stricken ship

Rome: Nearly 400 would-be immigrants sworn to safety after their Turkish boat ran aground off southern Italy (Richard Owen writes). The incident, two weeks after 1,000 Kurds arrived by boat near Lecce, revived fears that a wave of illegal immigrants is undermining the credibility of Italy's commitment to the Schengen agreement on a border-free Europe. The latest refugees were mainly Kurds, but included Pakistanis, Bangladeshis and Sri Lankans.

### Albania envoys fail to defect

London: Pavli Qesku, the Albanian Ambassador in London, and the mission's counsellor tried to defect two months ago after the electoral defeat of Sali Berisha, the former President. It was revealed last night (Michael Binyon writes). Britain refused their applications for asylum, saying that their lives would not be in danger if they went home. A third official ran off with the Embassy's bank account. Mr Qesku was recalled and a replacement is expected next month.

### 300 Russian army suicides

Moscow: More than 300 Russian servicemen committed suicide in the first nine months of this year, amid bullying of recruits and abysmal living conditions, a human rights activist said. Nikita Chernov, chairman of the Army and Society Association, also said that 1,037 servicemen were killed and 2,106 injured in the first three quarters of 1997 — even though Russia's war in Chechnya ended last year. The 314 suicides included a growing number of officers. (AP)

### Pledge on Balkan leaders

The Hague: A former US civil rights lawyer who is to head the Yugoslav war crimes tribunal has promised to build new ties with the Balkan leaders who hinder the United Nations court more often than they help it. Gabrielle Kirk McDonald, 55, a former law professor and federal judge in Texas, was elected president of the court set up to bring to justice those who committed war atrocities. (AP)

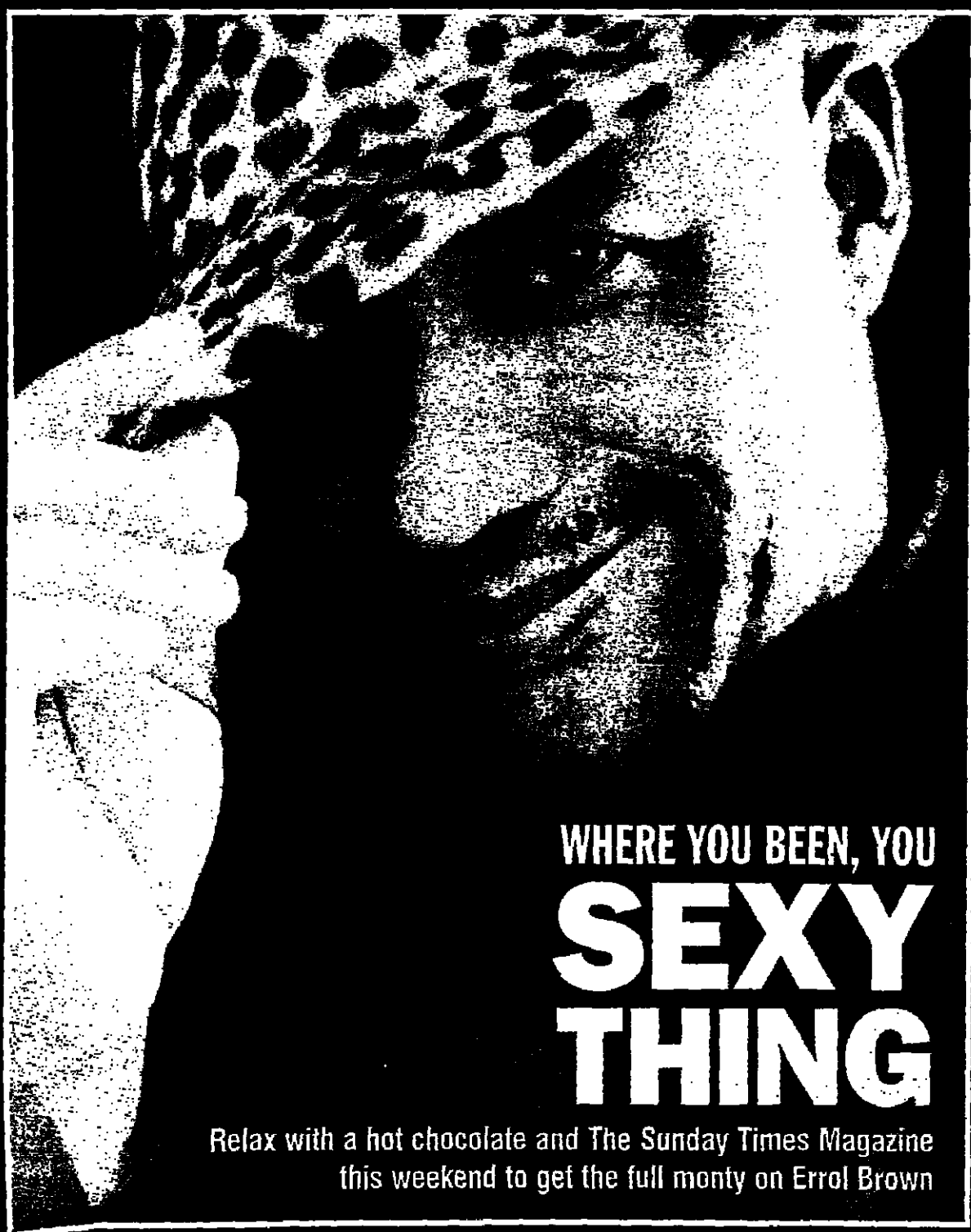
### Fire smog clears from Asia

Singapore: The haze that has choked South-East Asia since August has virtually disappeared with the onset of the monsoon season and a reduction in forest fires in Indonesia, regional experts said. Satellite pictures show few hot spots and the Meteorological Service Department in Singapore does not expect the smog to return this year. (AFP)

### Mayor seeks city's rebirth

Rio de Janeiro: Elcio Berti, Mayor of Boccaina do Sul in southern Brazil, has banned sales of cocaine and birth control pills in the hope that the resulting population rise will boost the town's tax revenues. He said that over the past 20 years the population had doubled from 22,000 to 45,000, reducing revenues by about two fifths. (AP)

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# US planned fake photographs of Castro debauch

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

AMONG the extraordinary dirty tricks offered to President Kennedy as ways of sabotaging President Castro of Cuba were the faking of photographs of an apparently debauched and murderous Castro, and the sinking of a boatload of Cuban refugees as a pretext for invasion.

The plans were included in classified documents released by the Pentagon. Dreamt up in tandem with Operation Mongoose, Robert Kennedy's concerted effort to dispose of Castro by any means possible, another proposal, Operation Dirty Trick, included plans to blame Havana for blowing up a US warship in Guantanamo Bay and even to accuse the Cubans of sabotage if John Glenn had failed to

return from his first orbit of Earth in 1962.

The astronaut, now a retiring senator, did get back, but the Pentagon memorandum suggested that if he had not, then "various pieces of evidence could be manufactured which would prove electronic interference [by] the Cubans".

Other schemes hatched by defence chiefs included Operation Good Time, which would have fabricated photographs of an obese Castro, clinging to two beauties in front of a table brimming with delicacies and accompanied by a caption "My reason is different".

The proposals, released by the Assassination Records Review Board, an agency overseeing the declassification of documents related to the death of President Kennedy in 1963, were published only weeks after the publication of a book detailing Robert Kennedy's wish to use mobsters in plots against Castro.

Written by Seymour Hersh, a Pulitzer-prizewinning investigative reporter, *The Dark Side of Camelot* can be lent only greater credibility by the latest notes, reflecting the Kennedy's intense desire to rid themselves of the Cuban President. While the CIA, as part of Operation Mongoose, used covert tactics as diverse as hiring Mafia hitmen and devising a poisoned diving suit as a gift for the Cuban leader,

the Pentagon invented equally bizarre schemes after the disastrous Bay of Pigs invasion in April 1961.

Military chiefs recommended to the Defence Secretary that America should overthrow Castro. "In view of the increasing military and subversive threat to the United States and the nations of the western hemisphere posed by the Communist regime in Cuba, the Joint Chiefs of Staff recommend that a national policy of early military intervention in Cuba be adopted by the United States," a memorandum from General Lyman Lemnitzer said.

The previous month, the Cuba Project initiated by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, suggested sinking a US warship in Guantanamo Bay or staging the disappearance of a USAF plane with the sole purpose of blaming Cuba.



Aileen Getty with her friend Diana, Princess of Wales, at a London clinic last year

# Getty heiress to pose naked at HIV art show

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

HOLLYWOOD'S grandest exhibition space will play host to an extraordinary spectacle tomorrow night when one of four heirs to the vast Getty oil fortune will take off her clothes and pose naked in the Pacific Design Centre as a living art exhibit.

Aileen Getty, 37, who has had the Aids virus since 1984, will be joined by three other naked HIV-positive models and a sign saying "Please touch". Each will also have a phial of his or her own blood.

Ms Getty's decision to take part in the exhibition could not come at a more opportune time for its British designer, Tony Kaye, nor at a more awkward one for the Getty family, as the foundation that bears its name prepares to open a new multibillion-dollar arts centre in the mountains above Los Angeles.

The heiress's struggle with Aids has shone an unwelcome spotlight on a family as dysfunctional as it is rich. "I was pretty much abandoned by the people close to me," she said in a rare personal interview in

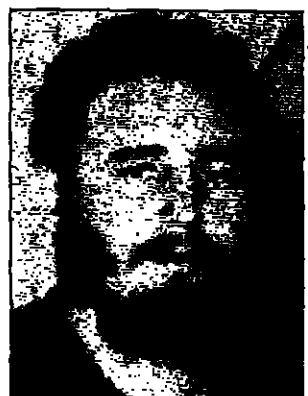
1992. She told her sister, Ariadne, and two brothers, Jean Paul III and Mark, but "no one wanted to hear about the Aids".

Tomorrow's piece of naked protest art is a repeat of similar exhibitions by Mr Kaye in London and New York, but it will have a particularly pointed meaning in Los Angeles, where the Getty Foundation has been variously accused of inflating world art prices and fostering an elitist approach to art appreciation with a vast new arts complex that towers over the city.

The second grand-daughter of the oil tycoon, J. Paul Getty, she believes she was infected with HIV during an operation to remove ovarian cysts in 1984.

She has denied ever using needles to take drugs, but has admitted frequently using marijuana and cocaine, and entering costly clinics to be weaned off them.

Ms Getty has become a prominent advocate for Aids research and treatment.



Castro: was target for Pentagon dirty tricks

# Zimbabwe MP asks Queen to apologise

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

A ZIMBABWEAN MP has demanded that the Queen should tour the country's rural areas to say sorry for British administration that seized land. She also seeks an apology over governments for which Britain was not responsible.

Irene Zindi told Parliament: "The Queen of England should make a public apology to the Zimbabwean people on British television for the whole world to note."

"Then she should come to Zimbabwe to publicly apologise to the Zimbabweans in rural areas, through rallies held at growth points, with a clear denunciation of the misdeeds of Cecil John Rhodes, Godfrey Huggins [a former Rhodesian Prime Minister] and Ian Douglas Smith, who

rejected British authority with his illegal declaration of independence in 1966."

Western diplomats point out that the Labour Government has firmly dissociated itself from any responsibility for the actions of Mr Rhodes, whose British South Africa Company occupied the country in 1890, or any of his successors.

Shortly before President Mugabe's first meeting in Edinburgh last month with Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, he demanded that Britain should "pay for its children" — white Zimbabwean farmers — from whom the government intended to seize nearly 1,800 farms to resettle black farmers.

Britain said it would be "impossible" to support the Zimbabwean plan.

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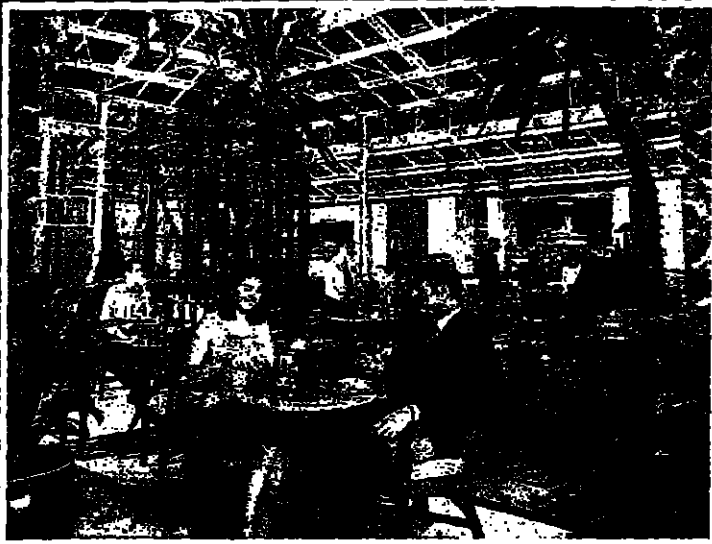
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Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands, on an official visit, at the Sphinx in Giza yesterday as Prince Claus, her husband, takes photographs

## Luxor bullets ricochet

The flight of tourists after the massacre signals grim times ahead for Egypt, Christopher Walker writes

THE damage that Monday's slaughter of 58 tourists will inflict on Egypt was signalled yesterday when Japan's top travel agency said it was cancelling trips to the country until at least the new year.

Similar reactions are expected elsewhere, posing the most serious threat yet to President Mubarak since he came to power, also as a result of Islamic violence, when President Sadat was murdered, on October 14, 1981.

The £2 billion-a-year Egyptian tourist trade is the main currency earner after remittances from expatriates, and as such is a major prop for the regime, which is also heavily dependent on aid from the United States.

Johannes Zurneiden, director of the Phoenix travel agency in Bonn, said: "People want to go on holiday and not

into a war zone." Analysts predicted yesterday that the Egyptian economy, and particularly the stock market, were likely to falter badly.

"Mubarak's first reaction [after Monday's attack] — to appoint a new Interior Minister and to merge the Tourist and Antiquities Police — was the equivalent of moving chairs on the deck of the Titanic," one senior Cairo-based diplomat said. "What is needed is a much more fundamental shake-up in the way that Egypt is governed."

Raafat Muhammad, a Luxor shopkeeper, was equally cynical. "Didn't anyone know security was loose before?" he asked. "The idea of security up

until now has been to set up a few guardposts on the west bank [of the Nile] and put two tired policemen by the site."

Expatriates describe the Egyptian attitude with which Mr Mubarak will have to come to terms as the "Cairo IBM", a phrase that is derived from the three Arabic words most often heard in the capital — "Inshallah" (God willing), "Bukra" (tomorrow) and "Maaleh" (it doesn't matter anyway).

Although Mr Mubarak was greeted with deferential cries of "God save you, our President," when he drove his own car through the streets of Luxor in a morale-boosting visit after the massacre, dis-

content with his pharaonic style of government runs deep. Western governments, which regard him as a linchpin of the present relative stability in the Middle East, have been disturbed by his increasing reluctance to brook domestic criticism and his refusal to react positively to peace offers from one wing of the Islamic extremists.

"You have to be firm with people like this. There is no point in dialogue with these people," the former air force commander said in dismissing the notion that some form of contact with the radicals may lead to a solution.

President Mubarak's willingness to tolerate a relatively

free opposition press as a way for critics to let off steam has also eroded, helping to stoke internal tensions. Most observers agree that the main cloud over his regime is corruption. To prevent mounting debate over the claims, Mr Mubarak has introduced draconian press restrictions which have been used to suppress the torrent of allegations, including those against his family.

Widespread public resentment had been countered by recent improvements in Egypt's economic standing.

"The point had just been reached when some of the benefits of privatisation were due to be distributed in the form of an improved welfare system," an Arab diplomat said. "That is why Monday's attack and its death knell for tourism is so damaging."

## Woman shot dead as she ran for cover

By ADAM FRESCO AND PAUL WILKINSON

SYLVIA WILDER, one of the women killed in the Luxor massacre, moved to live in London four years ago with her husband, although they separated a few months before she went on holiday.

The airline stewardess, who has dual British and Bulgarian nationality, was born in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, in 1970. She will be taken back to her home country to be buried, probably in Sofia, the home of her mother, in the next couple of days. It is thought her husband has told officials he does not want to receive the body.

Her sister, Diana, who also lives in London, is on holiday in South Africa but has been contacted by the Foreign Office. She was travelling back to Europe yesterday.

Ms Wilder, who worked for

Monarch Airlines, is believed to have gone on holiday with a friend who survived the attack. He has said that they tried to run for cover in some caves, but she was shot as she ran in front of him.

In Ripponden, West Yorkshire, Richard Whitton, the father of five-year-old Shaunnah Turner, who died in Luxor with her mother Karina and grandmother Joan, said his daughter was "a beautiful-looking, very intelligent young lady, who had the whole world at her feet".

Mr Whitton, 28, who was separated from Karina Turner, said: "The evil bastards who took Shaunnah should be here to see my grief... they would realise that they could never justify this murder."

## Britons sorry to go home as operators cut holidays short

FROM STEPHEN FARRELL IN LUXOR

BRITISH tourists were evacuated from Egypt yesterday, many protesting their readiness to stay in the aftermath of the Luxor massacre.

Thomson, the travel company, cut short all package tours in the country, flew holidaymakers to Luxor and then back to Britain on specially-chartered Boeing 757s. Tour groups were informed they had no choice but to leave, though many wanted to continue Nile cruises and trips to pharaonic temples, insisting there was no need to panic.

The first to leave were those already in Luxor, taken out on Tuesday on three Britannia jets. Other holidaymakers were yesterday flown to Luxor from Cairo, Aswan and Quseir, and bussed to the

Winter Palace Hotel where they were advised to stay for their own safety.

They were then put on coaches, taken to Luxor airport, and sent on flights to Birmingham, Manchester and Gatwick, each with a nurse on board.

Kuoni, another tour operator, posted notices in luxury hotels on the banks of the Nile in Luxor saying: "As a safety precaution, we are advising everyone to stay near to their hotel and not to undertake any independent sightseeing until further notice."

Mervyn Pierce, 66, a retired company director, and his wife Joy, 63, from Marshfield, near Bath, had their £1,800 two-week tour cut short by four days. They had seen the Valley of the Queens on Satur-

day and were in Cairo when the terrorists struck.

"We were happy to stay. We had done all our sightseeing and the last four days were for resting at Luxor. It has been taken out of our hands but we accept the decision," Mr Pierce said. "We continued our sightseeing. Twenty-eight of us on the trip still went on a trip to the Pyramids at Giza after the shootings, and only four didn't go."

Peter Heath, a company director from Swansea, who visited Egypt two years ago, said: "It's a shame we have to leave. We feel safe in the country. Egypt is nice, the people are very friendly and they have all been very apologetic. We would definitely come back, but maybe not for a year or two."

## Israel rift 'healed' by meeting at Ascot

Jerusalem: An unexpected private meeting in Ascot between Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, and King Hussein of Jordan has resolved the crisis caused by Israel's bungled attempt to murder a Hamas official in Amman, according to an Israeli spokesman.

The two-hour conversation at the King's private residence in Berkshire was the first meeting between the two since Mossad agents using forged Canadian passports tried to poison Khaled Meshal, the Hamas political chief.

"The goal of the meeting in part was to achieve reconciliation after the memorable affair in Jordan which shook relations between the countries," said Mr Netanyahu's spokesman, Shai Bazak. "The way it appeared at the end of the meeting, the relations between the Prime Minister and King Hussein certainly looked good."

The Israeli media said the meeting was initiated by the King to restore personal relations and to discuss the Iraq crisis. Israeli officials said the King wanted assurances that Israel would not violate Jordan's sovereignty if hostilities broke out with Iraq.

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

NAPOLÉON and Josephine may have been among the most famous lovers in French history, but an odd hiccup arose early in their marriage over the enduringly tricky question of whether to address each other formally, as *vous*, or more intimately, using *tu*.

A passionate love letter, written by Napoleon to Josephine in 1796 and sold at auction in Paris yesterday for Fr650,000 (£65,000), reveals that the future emperor and his wife fell out over which form of address they should use, a problem for French-speakers through the ages.

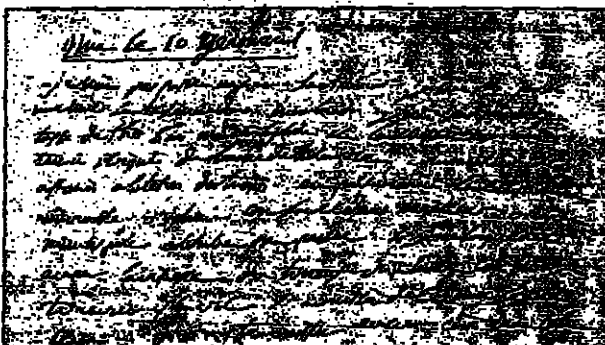
Replying to a letter sent by Josephine just a few weeks after their marriage, Napoleon admonished his bride for using the more respectful but distant style of speech.

"You call me *vous*," he complained. "Ah! But this is dreadful, how could you have written a letter like that? It is so cold."

The letter was sent from Nice on March 30 as Napoleon, then a 27-year-old general, was on his way to join the French Army in Italy. He had left Paris just two days after their wedding on March 9, and the letter (his fifth since leaving home) reflects the anxieties of a young husband, separated from his new wife and distinctly jumpy that she



Napoleon's love letter to Josephine shows that even emperors-to-be sometimes struggle with etiquette



should still be using the formal form of address. Josephine de Beauharnais was a worldly, 33-year-old widow (her first husband was guillotined) when Napoleon married her, and the letter, purchased yesterday by an American collector for three times the estimated price, is a touching testament to his

adoration as well as his doubts. "Not a night has passed without my imagining you in my arms... in the midst of business, leaving the troops, marching through the camps, my lovely Josephine is alone in my heart, occupying my spirit, absorbing my thoughts," he wrote.

The question of whether

and when to use the singular *tu* or the respectful second-person plural *vous* remains the biggest social minefield in the French language, dependent on such factors as class, occupation and age, and is the cause of endless misunderstandings and slights.

Married couples would normally be expected to use the *tu* form, but not always. Jean-Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir called each other *vous*; Colette addressed her husband as *tu* and he replied pompously in the *vous* form. Jacques Chirac and his wife Bernadette address each other as *vous*, as do many *haut bourgeois* couples, but the President addresses the likes of Tony Blair as *tu*. François Mitterrand, the late President, only used *tu* when speaking to his closest friends or insulting his bitterest enemies.

Napoleon's 1796 letter, sold by the Drouot auction house, was part of a private collection of Napoleonic artefacts.

Napoleon's anxieties were only too well-founded, given Josephine's notorious infidelities and wide-ranging sexual appetites. "While the letter leaves no doubt of the future emperor's infatuation, one is left with the sneaking suspicion that his wife purposely used the austere *vous* form, just to keep the young Napoleon's amour on the boil."

Books, page 40









**Dr Thomas Stuttford on bedsores; irritable bowel syndrome; erotomania; amnesia and strokes and HRT**

## Hidden dangers of a static life

**I**t is tragic that people like Lady Tryon should have battled against potentially crippling and lethal diseases, such as spina bifida and uterine cancer, only to fall victim to bedsores. The importance of treating pressure points — the parts of the body which bear the weight of a paralysed, semi-comatose or comatose patient — is easily forgotten.

Modern high-tech mattressing varies the way in which the weight of the patient is borne while bedridden and makes sores less likely, but bedsores still occur in those who are confined to wheelchairs.

Patients are usually first issued with a wheelchair while still in hospital or while attending a clinic. Unfortunately life in hospital wards and in an outpatient clinic is very different from that in someone's own house or place of work.

This difference can be of crucial, even lifesaving, importance. If the pressure points are not accurately plotted and the weight they have to bear is not measured, the necessary precautions to prevent pressure sores may not be taken.

Even sitting in one position for long periods may cause a bed sore. Another common hazard to the paralysed patient, often forgotten, is that which stems from asymmetrical sitting, such as happens when working. If, for instance, someone whose life is spent on the phone always answers it by leaning forward and to one side, this side of the body is exposed to much more pressure — and therefore the risk of a sore — than is the other side. In these cases the risk may be removed by finding a new place for the phone.

Research by Professor Ferguson Pell, at the orthopaedic hospital in Stanmore, Middle-



Lady Tryon, the dress designer and society hostess, who fell victim to a side-effect of pressure sores

sex, which has been funded by the medical charity Remedi, is designed to measure the pressure exerted on different parts of the body while the patient is in a wheelchair.

A computer-mapping electronic system records the data on a device called a data logger, so that the memory of all the different movements which the sitter undertakes may be recorded. So great is the amount of information derived that the data logger needs to process some of the information even as it is being collected.

Recently the Stanmore team has been developing a data analysis system called neural networks, modelled on decision-making processes of the human brain. This will provide a way to analyse data and will unravel complex information collated from the study of a wheelchair sitter's movements whether he or she is at home or at work.

**T**he team is about to work with a small group of volunteers so that the neural networks may be programmed to discover the pressure patterns in wheelchair users, whatever the cause.

After this, trials will be conducted in hospital surroundings where the team will be able to supervise the recording system at work with patients. Later research will carry out similar investigations in the patients' own houses and offices. It is hoped that this study will demonstrate the common cause of bedsores in wheelchair users who are living and working in the community.

The objective is that patients will be able to study their own pressure points by using the facilities developed at Stanmore, just in the same way as cardiac patients now borrow a 24-hour ECG machine to see the effect of home life on their coronary arteries. If Lady Tryon had known what activities caused her pressure sores, she might never have developed the blood poisoning now needed the surgery to restore the skin.

### The causes of memory loss

**W**HEN DAVID attended a casualty department in Bristol, he had no idea who he was or where he had come from. Fortunately, his wife recognised the picture of her husband in the paper, and David and his family were reunited. David's case is typical of a hysterical fugue, the most common form of psychogenic amnesia, when highly charged incidents are completely forgotten.

When the loss of memory has a physical cause, long-term memory is better preserved than that for recent events, and only rarely, if ever, do patients lose contact with their identity.

Other conditions which can be compared with hysterical fugues are systemised amnesia and transient global memory loss. In the first, the memory loss is for an isolated event, an horrific circumstance is forgotten, but the rest

### Stalkers with dangerous delusions

**M**URIEL TUCKER has made history by being the first woman to be prosecuted under the new harassment laws. She was a female stalker who plagued Terry Murphy, a taxi driver, with a multitude of letters and by her proximity; she moved so that she became his neighbour. Finally, Tucker broke into his house to greet him when he returned. She took with her two carving knives. Although Portsmouth Crown Court and the law treats Tucker as a criminal, doctors would probably see her as a patient suffering from erotomania.

Erotomania is the extreme jealousy aroused by the patient's conviction that a particular person is in love with them.

They contact the object of their desire with letters, telephone calls and visits. If thwarted, they may pose a danger, either to that person or to anyone who may stand in their way.

Some years ago I used to see a patient who was convinced that the head of the Greek Orthodox Church loved her dearly. The fact that they had never met did little to dissuade her. These patients need treatment in the same way as anyone with any other delusional preoccupation may need therapy. They will sometimes respond to a combination of psychotherapy and neuroleptic drugs, but society and the endangered man or woman may seek more drastic and immediate treatment.

### Unnecessary HRT anxiety

**M**OST doctors will be well aware of the anxiety that women who are taking HRT feel about the possible risk of having a stroke as a result of hormone therapy.

Doctors who have read *The Lancet* recently will be able to be even more reassuring than usual when they tell their patients that HRT taken by women aged between 45 and 65 has little influence on either the incidence of strokes caused by clots, which comprise 75 per cent of all strokes, or those that are the result of haemorrhage, when a blood vessel in the brain has burst.

One type of stroke seems, at first sight, to be more common in HRT takers: the transient ischaemic, in which stroke-type symptoms are caused by a clot, which rapidly passes on its way. The transient ischaemic leaves no appreciable residual damage and its prevention is encouraged by taking regular aspirin. The authors of *The Lancet's* report on HRT and strokes suggest that any increase in transient ischaemic attacks may be more apparent than real. It could be that patients who take HRT are the sort of women who would be more likely to report any symptoms of transient ischaemic to their doctor.

### The causes of memory loss

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## Relief for the stress of IBS

**I**t is always flattering when a former patient rings for a consultation from some far-flung corner of the world. This time it was Charlotte. She has been told she has irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) but, because other tests have been arranged urgently, she wonders whether her symptoms are really those of some malignant disease.

Charlotte should not worry: diarrhoea early in the morning followed by a reasonably well-behaved gut for the rest of the day are symptoms of a variant of IBS.

The doctor is only being careful in arranging other tests, for the symptoms of IBS can mimic those of many other conditions.

Dr David Silk, a consultant gastroenterologist at the Central Middlesex Hospital who has studied IBS, says one in four of the patients is found to have some other condition, despite the provisional diagnosis, when investigated at the hospital. Chief among these are microscopic colitis and coeliac disease (a sensitivity to gluten in wheat and most other cereals).

Other, less common, illnesses with similar symptoms include diverticular disease, chronic bowel infection, early ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease. Tumours of the gut, benign or malignant, may also be a possibility.

The days when IBS was thought to be a complaint of the large intestine have passed; upper intestinal disease, including gastric and duodenal ulcers, and gall bladder disease may also induce IBS-type symptoms. To complicate matters, the cause of the symptoms may lie away from the gut, and be associated with thyroid disease — either too much or too little thyroid, or abnormalities of the parathyroid glands.

Whatever the diagnosis that prompted the investigation, it has been found that 50 per cent of hospital gastroenterological admissions have IBS. Caring for IBS sufferers costs the NHS more than £500 million a year.

The symptoms of the condition are well known. These include abdominal pain, abdominal distension after eating, wind, constipation or diarrhoea. All of the symptoms are made worse by eating, particularly if there has been any tension, even pleasurable tension, while eating. Women are affected three times as often as men.

The interaction between the mind

and the gut, together with the wide variety of the symptoms of IBS — and the part that stress, diet and alcohol play — makes the syndrome a fascinating study.

Most patients have noticed close links between the abdominal symptoms and stress. Unfortunately, the symptoms of IBS tend to increase emotional tensions — 95 per cent of sufferers say that they worry about it "constantly", while 50 per cent are so concerned that they are unhappy eating in a restaurant, 40 per cent worry about travelling, 40 per cent find that staying with friends is difficult, and a similar number feel resentful that they cannot enjoy alcohol as much as their contemporaries can.

Dr Silk says: "Research into IBS is forging ahead. Doctors now understand far better the mechanisms that cause bloating and discomfort, and the abnormal motility of the gut. Much of the problem is related to the hypersensitivity of the intestinal tract."

Associated with this increase in knowledge of the causes of IBS is the development of new drugs to treat it. At the moment the mainstays of treatment are Colpermin, a peppermint preparation; Immodium, which slows the gut; and Colofac, a muscle

relaxant. All have proved useful to many patients.

Research now promises new drugs, not yet available but in the pipeline, which show every indication of being more efficient as muscle relaxants and in their ability to counteract other symptoms.

The research programme into IBS at the Central Middlesex Hospital is supported by charity and, like many medical charities, has recently felt the pinch. Dr Silk has written a readable and comprehensible book, *Understanding Your Irritable Bowel*, the profits from which will be devoted to the charity. The book aims to explain to people just what the symptoms of the various types of irritable bowel syndrome are, why they occur and how they can be treated. Although it is written for patients, doctors may well find that if they do not read it, their patients may know more about the condition than they do. My copy is on order.

• *Understanding Your Irritable Bowel*, by Dr David Silk, is available for £11.99, including postage, from PO Box 18, Cranborough, East Sussex, TN6 1TY. Cheque to be made payable to The IBS Appeal.

### Ulcers and gall bladder disease may also induce IBS-type symptoms

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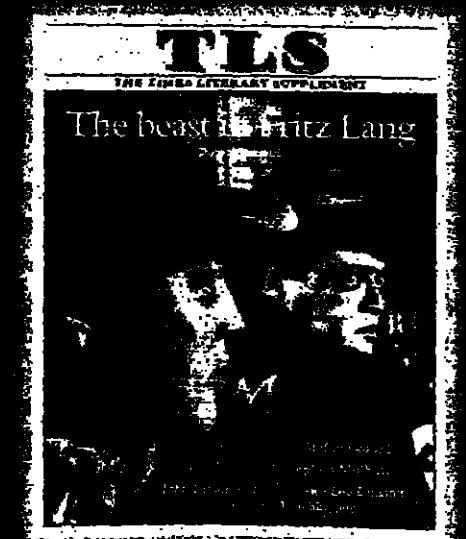
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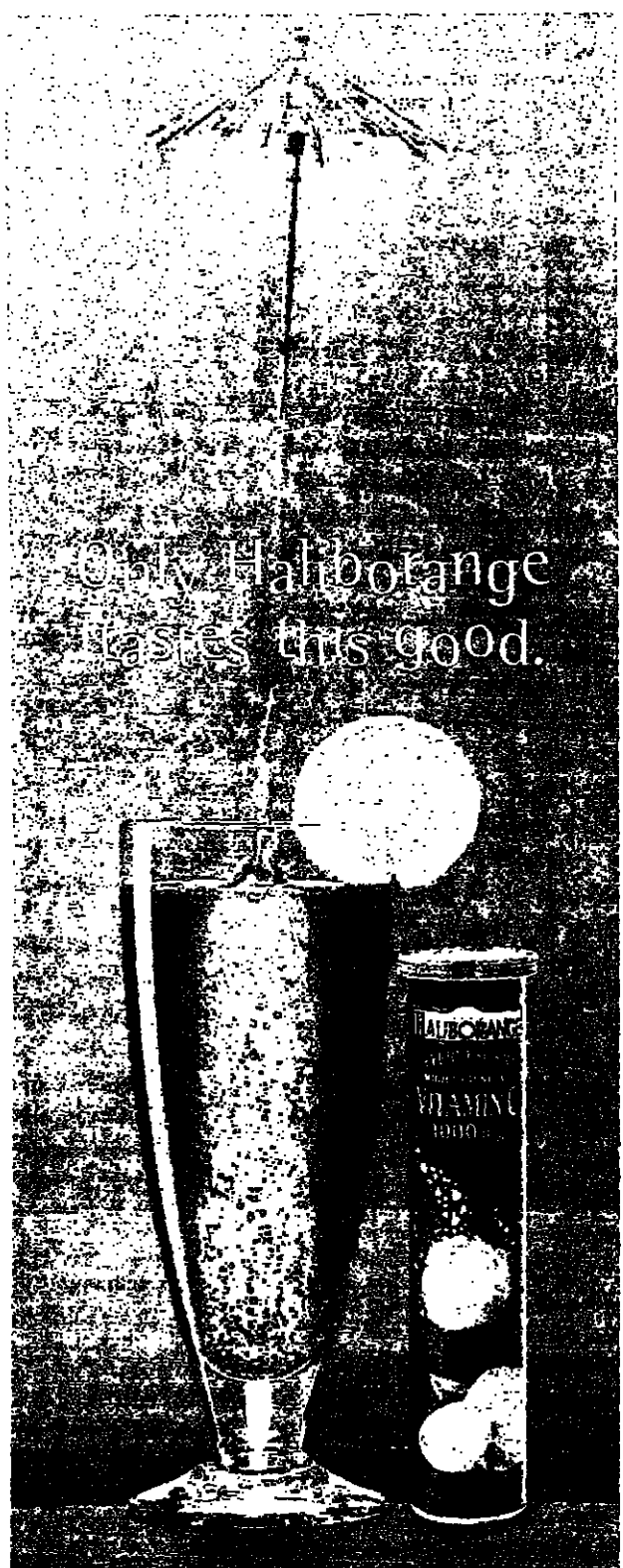
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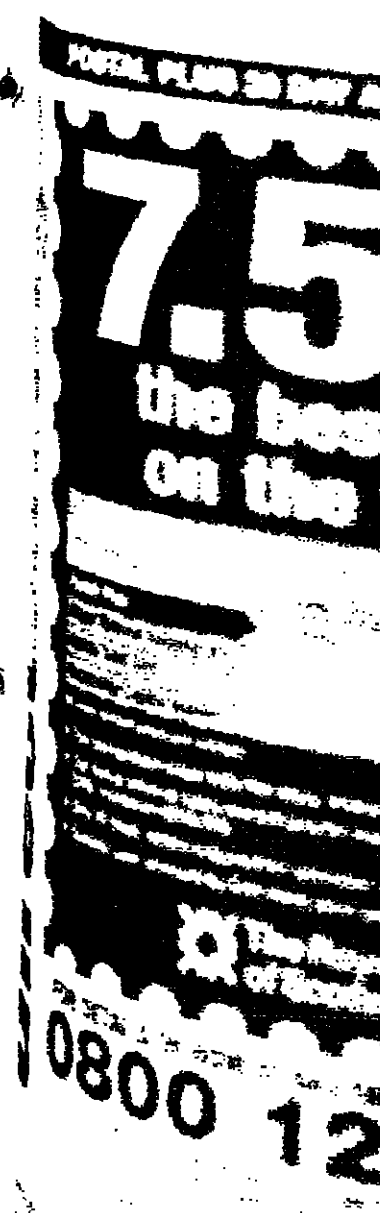
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# Branded for life

Having a designer logo tattooed on to one's ankle or wrist has become the ultimate in chic. Grace Bradberry reports

Picture the scene. Charlotte — Charlotte to her friends — stands before the mirror in her Notting Hill flat, preparing for a big night out. She is in torment. No style magazine, ever, has sanctioned the wearing of a Gucci logo belt with Nike trainers. What is she to do? Must she really choose between the two names that mean most to her in the world?

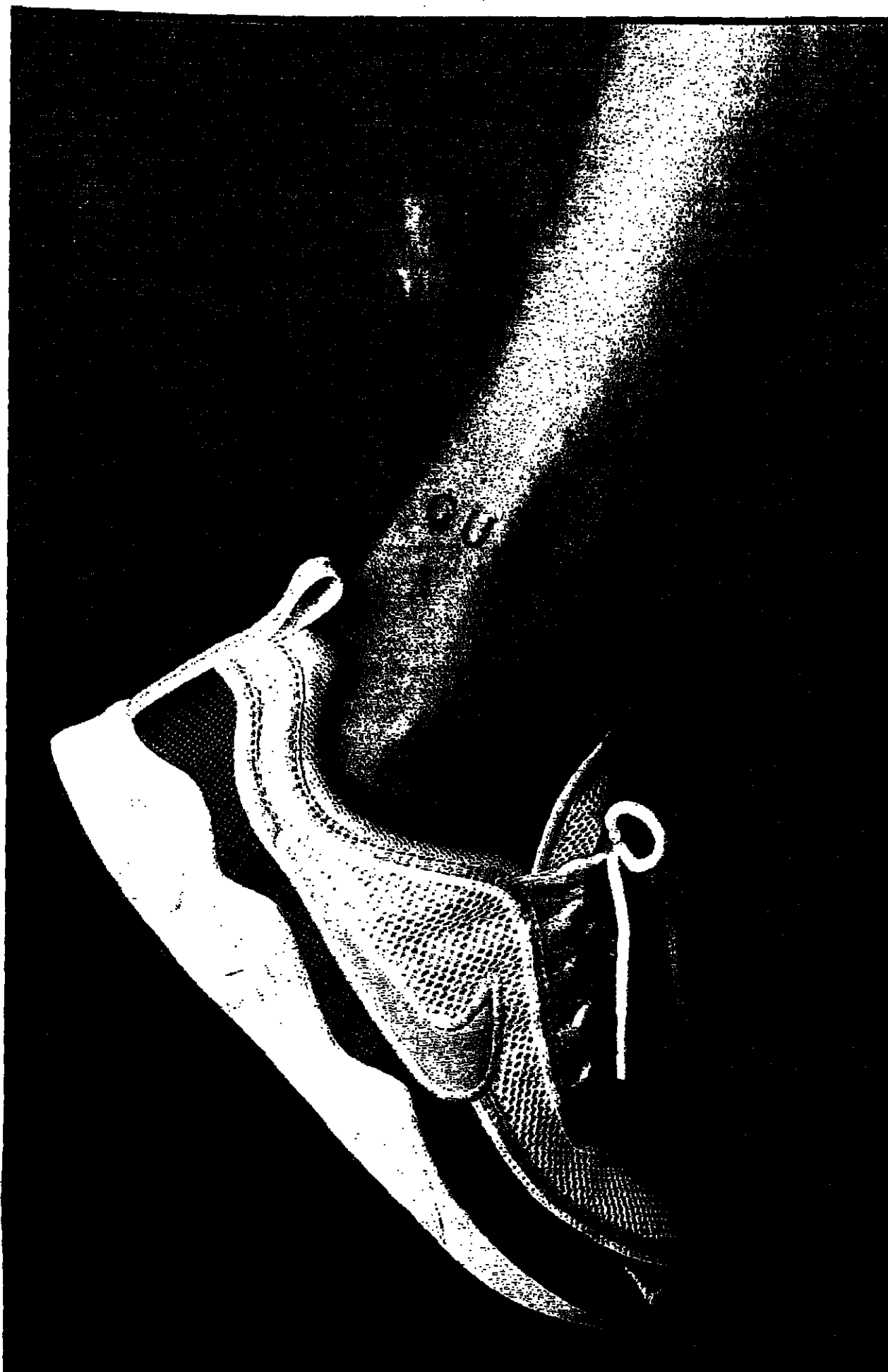
Fortunately, no. One afternoon of exquisite pain will ensure that she never again has to face this dilemma (though she may one day need laser surgery as a result).

An entire page of this month's issue of *The Face* is devoted to an image of a woman's leg bearing the Gucci logo just above the latest Nike trainer. In a trend that gives new meaning to the phrase "fashion victim", tattoo parlours are facing an increasing number of requests for corporate branding on their clients' flesh. "This winter's label-for-life ethos has nothing to do with footie bonding," writes Peter Lyle in the style bible, "and everything to do with conspicuous consumption, posh sex and the current couture class system."

Couture used to be a private language, summed up by Nancy Mitford in *Love in a Cold Climate*. Fanny, disappointed by the Schiaparelli jacket her mother has given her, says: "It seemed to me quite plain and uninteresting except for the label in its lining, and I longed to put this on the outside so that people would know where it came from." Then along comes Cedric, who spots it at a glance: "My dear, one can always tell."

"It used to be that the more you spent, the less visible the label was," says Mr Lyle. "But the new Gucci shoes have the Gs." The hierarchy of who owns what has reassessed itself with a vengeance in the late 1990s, and there are no longer any prizes for discretion, and few for discernment.

Still, having Gucci drilled on your ankle is a particularly reckless act. The history of this fashion house well illustrates how fickle fashion can be. One of the century's most chic luxury goods companies, it plunged into apparently ter-



High-fashion labels were once discreetly sited. The new vogue for trademark tattoos means you can have a designer body

minial naffdom before enjoying a resurgence courtesy of Tom Ford in the 1990s. "We won't do logos," says Andy Dixon, one of London's best-known tattoo artists, who has a parlour called Skinflash in Kensington. "We won't do

things that are going to be a fad and that people will live to regret. We certainly don't do pop groups — (clients would) feel like prats at 65."

Mr Dixon, who has been in business for 18 years and is, self-taught, in Her Majesty's

big house", likes to do artistic work. He also talks longingly of his old clientele. "There are no sailors and dodgy people any more," he says. "Instead we get Sloane Rangers who have come along to upset Mummy, and professional women in their mid-twenties."

Hence the feature in *Tatler* earlier this year, which recom-

mended that the tattoos be tucked away on the heel of the foot, nape of the neck or inside of the wrist: "Like great perfumes applied well, tattoos shouldn't smack you in the face, but hint at something delicious." And what could be more delicious than a pricey designer name?

Models, of course, cannot show any brand allegiances. This has not stopped them from succumbing to the vogue for flesh decoration. Kate Moss has a noncommittal heart on the back of her hand, while Danielle Z has a star hidden away on the back of her head. The name Shangri-La circles Georgina Grenville's navel.

You might think the design-barbed-wire markings across their mouths. And a few years ago daisy-chain designs around the ankles were the epitome of rock chic. Not any more, which is why anyone with ambitions to reinvent themselves will go for something less permanent. Urban Decay's home body paint kits have become popular. But there are still enough brave souls to give the tattoo artists a laugh. "We had a man who wanted a Rolex watch crown, with the word Rolex underneath it," says Kate Wilson, business manager of Into You, in Clerkenwell, North London. "We did it for him. We've also done the Fairy Liquid baby for someone. None of us can understand it at all."

**ARTS**  
*Storm and stress in Sussex* Chichester Theatre director Duncan Weldon tells Richard Morrison why he has quit  
*Arts: Pages 36-39*

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## Why tea should pack its bags

Tea's loss of favour among Britons is causing concern in Japan — but Joe Joseph isn't worried

You would be surprised at just who drinks tea. Take Dean Martin, for instance. Although he was famous for his supposed devotion to bourbon, Dean Martin was actually a deeply traditional man who, being a creature of habit, knew that come four o'clock in the afternoon, it was time for a different kind of drink. So he would switch to vodka for a couple of hours instead. But never tea.

That's because Dean Martin knew that tea is a wuss's drink, the sort of drink that — along with brollies and bowlers — has no place in Tony Blair's hip, new, exciting, "rebranded", Formula One-loving Britain. But apparently tea's loss of favour among Britons is now upsetting the Japanese, who feel that tea-drinking is one of the cornerstones of British life. They say that the decline in tea-drinking is causing England to lose its quintessential "Englishness".

Who does? Stand up Mr Toru Kuroiwa (actually he is standing). Mr Kuroiwa, who used to be the London bureau chief for the Japanese newspaper *Mainichi Shimbun*, has written a bestseller in Japan in which he pillories the British for losing their reserve and their taste for tea. Kuroiwa, whose *The English Way Of Life* is treated as an authoritative reference book, blames the decline in tea drinking for Britain's moral decline. "I was shocked when I got to this country and there was a strike on the London Underground: the workers said they wanted time for a tea break. I learnt that tea-drinking was one of the most important rituals of this country. It is good for you. It relaxes."

And now? Tea-time plays a smaller and smaller part in our lives as we become what Kuroiwa regards as a consumer-driven, less tolerant and less civil society — which is obviously a perfectly reasonable view, unless you happen to be one of those newly vulgarised Britons who think that Mr Kuroiwa should stop being such a clever Dick and mind his own business.

In his essay *A Nice Cup Of Tea*, George Orwell wrote that tea made you feel "wiser, braver and more optimistic". But actually it makes you feel even wiser, braver and more optimistic if you lace it with *Glenlivet* or *PG Tips*. Not unless they were turned on by chimps.

When psychologists announced earlier this year that supermarket shoppers were sizing up potential partners by watching what they put in their trolleys, it was noticeable that tea was not cited as a turn-on. Dr David Lewis, the psychologist who carried out the research for the Sainsbury supermarket chain, discovered that not only was it common for under-25s to visit supermarkets to pick up people, but that more than one in ten of these under-25s regularly used a form of "love-coding" in supermarkets to size up potential bedmates.

Of course, once everyone was wise to the game (soup, fish fingers and Brussels sprouts supposedly indicate that you are dull; tropical fruits say you are "exotic and passionate"; bananas tell other shoppers that "life is hectic but I love it"), shoppers began choosing particular "love-coded" items for their wire basket even if they would never normally eat them — the shopper's equivalent of disguising a molehill cleavage with a Wonderbra.

So what did these people choose? Tetley teabags? No. "Chocolate fudge cake was cited by a number of people as something they would put in their basket if they wanted to send out the message that they were game for a wild time," said Dr Lewis.

This is because, while many foodstuffs betray you terribly (fish paste surely means "I wear socks in bed"), tossing tea in your trolley just embarrasses you. Especially if you sink to instant tea granules. Instant tea granules broadcast to the world that "squandering time on foreplay is not my strong point."

You only have to look at all the references to tea in the English language to see how dispiriting its influence can be. By substituting something else for the word "tea" in each case, you can glimpse the possibilities of a cheerier, non-tea world beyond. Study these examples of tea-replacement:

Afternoon tea — afternoon siesta; tea breaks — tax breaks; making tea — making out; my cup of tea — my cup runneth over; tea lady — Isabelle Adjani; I have my own tea caddy — I have my own golf caddy; high tea — highball; teacake — tiara.

And people who defend tea-drinking on the ground that it is an age-old bond that links everyone from queen to commoner should remember: so is nose hair.



Tea-drinking: so British

she chose to design her own coffee blend? Manhattan cafes now sell it at \$1.30 a shot, served in small DKNY paper cups. Not so much a diffusion range as an infusion range.

One can easily imagine that other designers will now branch out into own-label foodstuffs. But can you imagine any designer calling a press conference to inform the world that they have spent months mixing up a few Assams and orange pekoes and lapsang whatisits to produce personalised teabags?

Tea simply lacks sex appeal. Think of the *Gold Blend* ads. Is it likely that viewers would have become glued to television commercials showing sexual seduction conducted over cups of PG Tips? Not unless they were turned on by chimps.

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# Don't ever go back on Dearing

There is still time to rescue higher education, says Magnus Linklater

There was a simplicity about Sir Ron Dearing's report on higher education. Now, as the Government seeks to turn it into action, it is beginning to degenerate into confusion, with worrying signs of bureaucracy, discrimination and downright unfairness.

This week, for the first time, a member of the Dearing committee, Sir Ron Garrick, broke ranks to accuse the Government of abandoning a coherent formula in favour of proposals which will hit middle-income families in general, and English students in particular.

What seems to be happening is the opposite of what was intended: instead of students being inspired to seek out the most suitable university anywhere in the British Isles for their course, they may well be encouraged to stay at home, or even to abandon a university education. In this, of all vital areas, old Labour ideas are still obstinately guiding policy.

Most of the focus in England has been on the Oxbridge colleges, and their protests that the Government may cease paying college fees, using Dearing's recommendations as an excuse for opting out of an annual £17 million subsidy. This, they say, will force students to charge directly, and discourage the less well-off.

Last week I received a glossy brochure from my old Cambridge college urging support in fighting the plans. My immediate thought was that if they could afford the brochure they were probably well-placed to make up the shortfall in fees. But I accept that some less well-off colleges, such as Pembroke and Fitzwilliam, will be seriously hit. Other universities which have historically been paid a special college fee, such as Durham, could face financial collapse.

Far more significant is the tampering with one of Dearing's basic principles. The original idea was straightforward: all students from all backgrounds would be charged a tuition fee of £1,000 a year. Loans would be made available, repayable after graduation, to cover the fees. Such was the clarity with which Dearing addressed the funding crisis, that his report won a remarkable degree of support — not least from the Government.

Almost immediately a means-testing element was announced, whereby only students from "well-off" backgrounds would have to pay the fees, either in full or in part, depending on their parents' income. Then, in Scotland, there were two further developments: those able to pay would not be able to take out a loan, and English students enrolling for Scottish universities, with their four-year courses, would have to pay in full for the fourth year. Students living in Scotland would be exempt.

This has produced a huge protest, not perhaps because of the number affected, but because of the principle involved. Students, of all people,

should be encouraged to seek the widest horizons: to regard geographical boundaries as irrelevant when broadening their experience. To introduce even the smallest element of discrimination into the United Kingdom education system is a retrograde step, just as devolution looms. University principals worry that it will drive foreign students away, encourage parochialism and sow resentment among English and Welsh students, many of whom regard some Scottish universities as equal contenders with Oxford and Cambridge and have flocked north.

Brian Wilson, the Education Minister at the Scottish Office, believes only a minority of students from England would be affected, and that most would be sufficiently well off to shrug the extra charge aside. "Do they really, honestly, believe that all of the minority who will be asked to pay... come from family circumstances in which the imposition of a £1,000 fee, over a four-year course, is going to be the crucial determinant... who is kidding whom?" he demands.

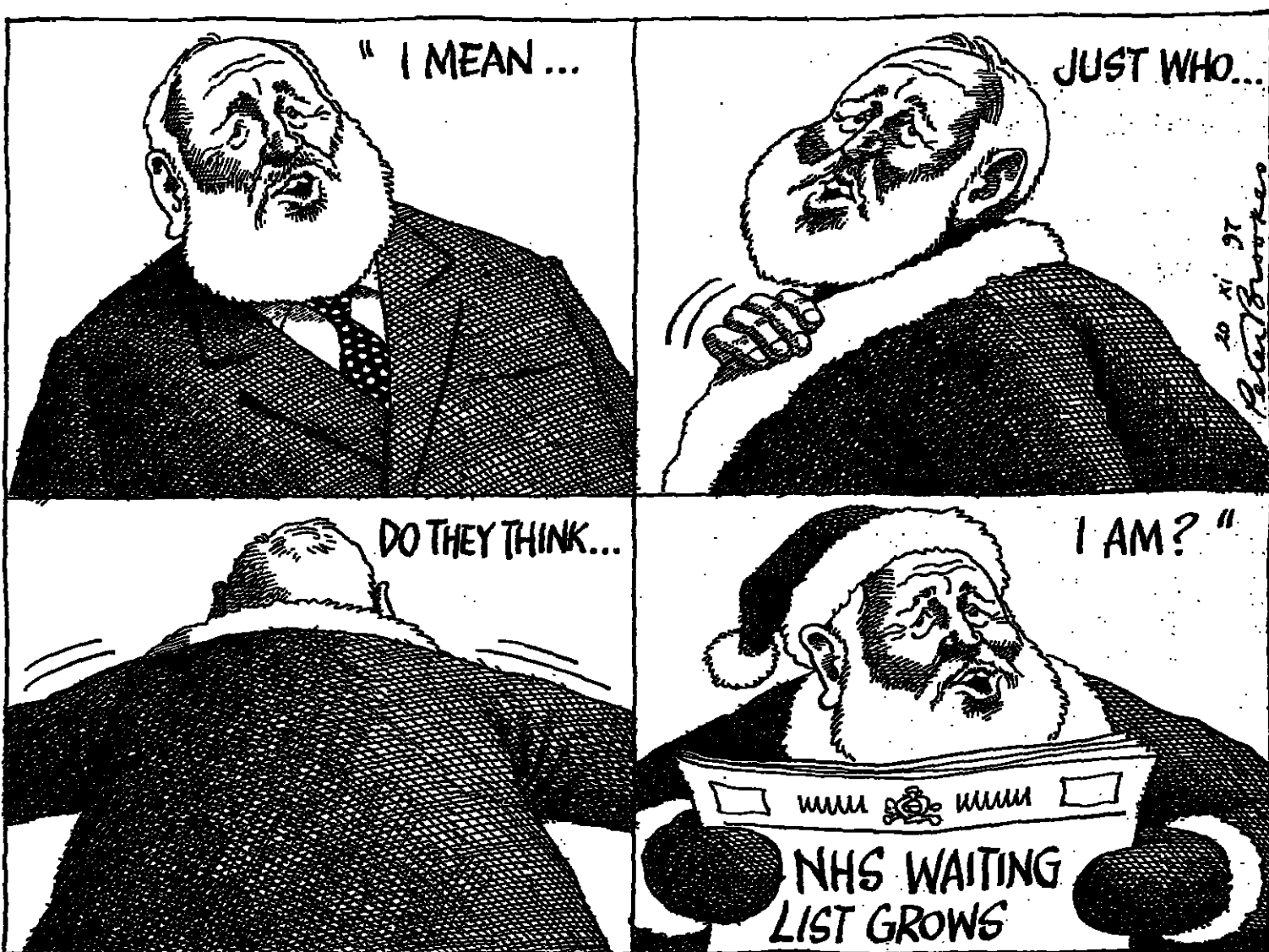
Well, he may be kidding himself. How can he possibly know? As anyone who has studied the means-testing principle accepts, it can act as a powerful disincentive to those least able to afford it. Students from middle-income families, at the bottom end of the non-exempt range, will now have to contemplate finding tuition fees "up front", will be ineligible for loans, and may be in no position to contemplate the additional cost of travelling to a university which charges extra for certain citizens in different parts of the United Kingdom.

Students are likely to choose the cheaper alternative, which in most cases will be their home-town university. Means-testing takes no account of those who may appear on paper to be well-off, but who may have a range of other financial commitments. And, of course, it ignores those parents who, for reasons which may be unfathomable, are simply unwilling to pay for their student progeny.

This is all a long way from Dearing. When the report was published last July it was welcomed by universities because it placed its emphasis not just on improving access to higher education, but on finding funds to improve its range and quality. David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, spoke about the need for resources to be "directed back into lifelong learning". There was no mention of discrimination or limiting opportunities — exactly the opposite.

There is still time for clarification, for a restatement of aims, and above all for the removal of unnecessary barriers to higher education. Universities should be open to the widest possible range of students. It would be a pity if narrow parochialism was introduced just at the point where they should be spreading their educational wings.

Scottish universities worry about resentment over the border



## Is gold only for fools?

That which glisters may not always be a sensible investment — but we continue to be fascinated by it

In the past fifteen years an interest in gold has not been a good way to make money, but it has been a good way to think about money. Probably the most successful and certainly the most powerful of central bankers in the 1990s has been Alan Greenspan, the chairman of the Federal Reserve. His understanding of the world's monetary system was partly built on his study of the old gold standard. In 1966 he wrote a paper *Gold and Economic Freedom*, in which he argued that "in the absence of its historic value in Britain; farmland in England has usually been worth between five and ten ounces of gold an acre, according to the quality of the land. At £170 an ounce, that would give a price of £850 to £1,700 an acre, which is at present on the low side. On the other hand, £20 an acre, which was then equivalent to five ounces of gold, was normal for farmland throughout the agricultural depression from the 1870s to the 1940s."

When gold had its last great boom, it went to \$800 an ounce. That was the result of a world-wide panic about inflation in the 1970s and early 1980s. Now all serious investors have given up on it. The goldbugs still have a sentimental nostalgia for the days when one could actually make money out of gold-related investments, but they have prophesied so many false dawns that their arguments no longer have any place in sober investment analysis. No investment fashion has been so thoroughly exploded as gold; most people think that there will no more be another gold boom than there will be another boom in tulip futures in The Netherlands.

One cannot be so sure about the future of this mysterious metal. Roy Jastram gives a table of the purchasing power of gold, starting from 1600. It has certainly outperformed paper currencies.

The gold value of a sovereign now has much the same purchasing power as it would have had in 1972. 1874, 1887, 1921, 1794, 1776 or 1723, or, indeed, in 1649, the year Cromwell cut off the head of Charles I. In 1997 we can see gold once again performing its strangest trick of all, and acting as a long-term measure of value. It has behaved in this way for an amazingly long time. Although the two metals have since diverged because of changes in mining technologies, the ratio of the price of gold and silver was the same in the first year of the reign of Queen Victoria as

it had been in the last year of the reign of the Emperor Augustus. Nobody can study the history of gold without becoming fascinated by these long-term price relationships. Gold is at present on the cheap side of its historic value in Britain; farmland in England has usually been worth between five and ten ounces of gold an acre, according to the quality of the land. At £170 an ounce, that would give a price of £850 to £1,700 an acre, which is at present on the low side. On the other hand, £20 an acre, which was then equivalent to five ounces of gold, was normal for farmland throughout the agricultural depression from the 1870s to the 1940s.

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pretty gloomy about the outlook for gold in 1800. William Pitt might fall; Napoleon might invade; Nelson might lose at Trafalgar; Wellington might lose at Waterloo; Rothschild and Barings might lose control of the gold market. Yet gold's purchasing power rose by 50 per cent in the next 50 years and doubled in the next century. From the present level of 91, the index could repeat that performance in the 21st century, or it could just remain its constant self, as it did in the 17th.

Even the stock market performance of gold investments does not all go one way: I have recently had an intriguing letter from Andrew Lampert, well known in the gold world as a director of Midland investment firm.

With the courage to have a gold bias, he sent me a chart of the share price of Homestake Mining, an American S. gold producer, measured against the Dow Jones index. Ten thousand dollars invested in Homestake in 1922 would now be worth a little over \$1,000,000; \$10,000 invested in the Dow would be worth a little less than \$1,000,000. But the experience in between would have been very different. Homestake outperformed the index from 1922 to about 1910, underperformed from 1910 to 1929, outperformed spectacularly in the 1930s, and underperformed in the 1940s, 1950s, and early 1960s. "The Dow Jones traded around the 1,000 level from 1966 to 1982 and Homestake appreciated by 466 per cent. In the past 15 years, the Dow Jones has gained a massive 645 per cent against Homestake moving up by just 8 per cent." Perhaps the pendulum will eventually swing again; pendulums often do.

Most people think of gold as a protection against inflation, and expect it to rise in inflationary periods, but fall with deflation. Roy Jastram examined the UK and American price record to 1976, and reached these rather unexpected conclusions:

1. Gold is a poor hedge against major inflations.
2. Gold appreciates in operational wealth in major deflations.
3. Gold does maintain its purchasing power over long periods of time.

The current purchasing power of gold in Britain is close to the historic lows of the Civil War, the collapse of the South Sea bubble, the American War of Independence, the Napoleonic wars, the First World War and the General Strike. Gold may not be cheap, but for the British it hardly looks expensive — not unless we are expecting a war, a crash or a general strike in the near future.

It looks very different in Asia. The South East Asian economies of Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia have all devalued against the dollar in the past six months; so has South Korea: the big Japanese devaluation has continued. In terms of all of these currencies, gold has been static or firm. It has not done as well as the dollar, but it has served its traditional function of acting as a stable reserve. It has also met its textbook description of being both a real asset, such as property, and a liquid one, such as cash.

At present, the dollar is king of the world currencies; most of the Asian currencies have devalued against it, and even the euro has been prospectively devalued against it, 18 months before it has even come into existence. Sterling has also appreciated, and has been stronger than the dollar itself. Yet some commentators fear that the Asian devaluations may be the first of a wave of competitive global devaluations, like those in the 1930s, which included Europe and America. In the 1930s almost every currency was devalued in terms of gold.

Several of the world's central banks have recently been selling gold, on the argument that the dollar offers both appreciation and an interest yield, while gold has depreciated and provided no income. So far they have been right, but what will they do if the dollar itself has to be devalued? Already, the United States has a trade deficit and is far from competitive in cost with Asia. At some point in the future, the dollar may be seen as unsustainably overvalued. Then presumably the dollar price of gold will start to rise — the 2,500-year history of gold as a store of value may be far from finished.

William Rees-Mogg

## Why the US won't go to war

Michael Kelly  
on a nation too squeamish to fight

In the summer and autumn of 1995, as the war in Bosnia was winding down, I spent a couple of months in Bihac, a small, handsome mountain city in the northwest corner of the country then entering its last days under Serbian siege. Bihac was defended by the Bosnian Army's V Corps, which had built itself up from a few platoons of local volunteers armed with Kalashnikovs and hunting rifles into a great, if unconventional, fighting force. For more than two years the V Corps held off a vastly better-armed encircling force, and the war they fought was more like 1917 than 1995.

The soldiers at the front lived for months at a time in slit trenches and scant bunkers of sandbags and tree branches, dug in along wooded ridges and hills. They had, for most of the war, so little ammunition that it was common for troops to go into battle with 20 rounds apiece. They fought in short, furious bursts, emerging from their holes in the mud to charge the enemy line in shooting, stabbing, shrieking onslaughts that usually ended with everyone on one side or the other wounded or dead.

These soldiers were mostly young and mostly untrained, but they had become greatly familiar with war and familiarity had bred its usual contempt. While they still feared death, they no longer respected it. This had some unhappy consequences. There was a lot of mental depression in Bihac. But the devaluing of life had also served its great purpose. It had freed the people from their normal inhibitions about killing and being killed, and this in turn had kept them from being killed. Accepting death, it turned out, was indispensable to defeating death.

This is a troubling idea to contemplate as the United States worries, again, about what to do about Baghdad. Saddam Hussein's ability to agitate America rests on his understanding that America has developed a phobia of military death. While the Americans have become weirdly numb to the horror of death in the civilian sphere (on the streets, in the movies), they have evolved what amounts to a zero tolerance policy for death on the battlefield, and not just American death, any death. In Bosnia, America watched the Serbs conduct a genocidal campaign, and did nothing of practical import for three years, because they didn't want to be responsible for anyone being killed — not even the perpetrators of genocide.

The Gulf conflict was, per capita, probably the most death-free war ever waged. In all the war, there was only one scene of really troubling mass slaughter, the savaging by air and by tank of the Iraqi forces fleeing home from their rout in Kuwait. And this scene ended the war.

Looking at the burnt, exploded bodies a few days after the attack, it seemed obvious to me that the war must instantly end; there could be no justification for continuing unilateral slaughter. This seemed obvious to a lot of other people too, some of them professional military men and some of them advisers to the President. So the war ended, abruptly and disastrously, with Saddam Hussein in power and protected by the well-paid, heavily armed Republican Guard, which American forces could have destroyed in a few days then.

It seems obvious to me now that what seemed obvious to me then was the usual result of a little knowledge intruding suddenly on total ignorance. I had never seen the results of war, and the results horrified me out of my wits. In this, I was of course typical of my generation of reporters. The result is, in military terms, a press corps that is forever suffering a collective case of the most unwarlike of all: the most unwarlike of all — soldiers can be brutes and pigs, generals can be stupid, battles can be fatal — we are forever shocked, forever reaching for the sal volatile.

The media's generational horror at war's truths reflects the larger society's views, and this larger society includes the military itself. Not since Vietnam has America faced a serious war, involving a serious level of death (and Vietnam's 58,000 American coffins were a fraction of the hundreds of thousands in the great wars), and that conflict ended a quarter of a century ago. We are a nation in which there are fewer and fewer people, and they are older and older people, who accept what every 12-year-old in Bihac knows: that there are things worth dying for, and killing for.

So, Americans will let Saddam Hussein stall them until he has hidden what weapons of mass death he needs to hide, and then he will let the UN inspectors back in, and the Americans will live with that. Or they will inflict some suffering on Iraq, and kill some people, but not too many, because the people — the American people, that is — will not be able to stand the pictures. And the Americans can live with that too. But one of these days, somebody — the North Koreans come to mind — is going to start a real war. And then we will find out what we can really live with.

Michael Kelly is a writer for the National Journal in Washington.

## Miller's tale

GIORGIO ARMANI and the Royal Opera House have fallen out over its plans to use his costumes for a revival of the Jonathan Miller production of *Così fan tutte*. The opera company owns the garb, which first appeared at Covent Garden two years ago, but the Italian designer wants the costumes to remain in storage for good because he feels they are now passé. Dr Miller asked Signor Armani to design the clothes because the polymath wanted his production of Mozart's opera buffa to be set in the Nineties. First performed in 1995, the production proved such a success that it was revived earlier this year. Second time round, most of the cast were dressed in new costumes, though once again designed by Mr Armani.

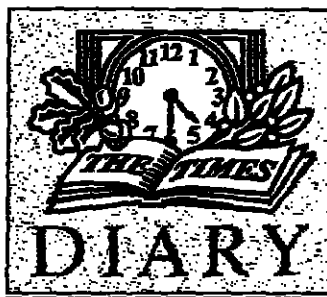
But when the Royal Opera House began planning a third run at its temporary home at the Shafesbury Theatre next March, it received a letter *pro tanto* from the designer, refusing to give permission for his creations to reappear. "Dr Miller's *Così* is such a modern production, it's of today," a custodian of the House of Armani explains. "If you use costumes from 1995, it just would not be up to date." Despite the designer's unhelpful attitude, the Royal Opera House is still hopeful of resolving the dispute in time for the production to go ahead next March, as planned. "We expect everyone will end up dressed appropriately," a



Any old clothes? Miller, Armani friend at the opera company suggested sotto voce.

### More Max

AFTER my disclosures earlier this week about the reckless youth of Max Mosley, I was delighted to hear more about the Labour Party contributor and president of the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile, motor racing's gov-



erning body, from my old friend Stella Hollis. Bumping into the former big noise in industrial tribunals yesterday, she told me about the 1999 election in North Kensington when her then husband, Michael Hyldeman stood as a Liberal against Max's father, Sir Oswald Mosley, of the extreme right-wing Union Movement.

As Mr Hyldeman hauled his soap box around the streets of Notting Hill expounding his pro-immigration views, Stella recalls how he was confronted by the young Max. "With flaming red hair and fanatic eyes, he screamed foul aggressive vituperation and was always accompanied by a group of thugs. It was my one and only experience of politics. But it was hugely rewarding; Sir Oswald came bonum of the poll and crept away to live in France."

THE angelic Hollywood star Leonardo Di Caprio was almost sunk by a crisis when he was over here this week for the premiere of his latest film, *The Titanic*. Not only had he failed to pack a black tie, but he was also ignorant of the fine art of tying one. The problem became even more acute when he turned for help to his hotel, the Metropolitan in London's Park Lane, and discovered it was also sartorially challenged. After much head scratching, a footman from the neighbouring but more traditional Four Seasons Hotel was



"How romantic, a candlelit dinner for two"

called in with bow tie and, naturally, instructions.

### Regal rolecall

AFTER Tai-Shan Schierenberg's unflattering portrait of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh was unveiled last month, HRH has turned to Andrew Festing, the artist son of Field Marshal Sir Francis Festing, to mark her 50th wedding anniversary. She has commissioned him to paint her along with her husband and 20 royal guests, including the luxuriously titled Queen Fabiola and the Prince of Asturias. Mr Festing will work from a photograph taken during the celebrations, with some relief: when he painted the Queen in 1994 he was heard to complain that "she moves rather a lot".

POOR Mohamed Al Fayed. Invitations were sent out last week to Harrods' wealthier customers, bidding them to a Christmas party next month. Among the promised attractions is a free raffle. The prize? A Nile cruise to Luxor.

### Fond farewell

TO St Martin-in-the-Fields, Central London, for the private memo-



Confidante: Carolyn

rial service to Diana, Princess of Wales, yesterday. The service recalled her time at West Heath School, Kent, and escaped the media because details were passed around the 500 guests by word of mouth. Among those paying tribute was Carolyn Bartholomew, schoolfriend, flatmate and confidante. It was one of the most poignant services the church has seen.

JASPER GERARD





## GOLDEN DUKE

Anniversary greetings to the consort behind the throne

More than 100,000 couples are celebrating their golden weddings this year. Today the Queen and Prince Philip represent them all, just as they represent the United Kingdom in other public acts of the theatre of private life. Most Britons alive today have no memory of any householders at Buckingham Palace other than the Queen and her Duke.

Yesterday's hunch in the formality of Guildhall was an unusually informal and national family affair. As is customary at private but not at State celebrations, the husband made the speech. Prince Philip made a handsome joke of how the Lord Mayor and the Prime Minister (with whom Queen and Duke lunch today) had tossed for speakers, and the City lost and got him as tails. The tone was self-deprecating, the sort of clubhouse humour that any traditional English husband reaching his marital half-century might display.

To survive 50 years of marriage against the changes and chances of everyday life has always been a matter for congratulation. And in spite of greatly increased life expectancy since 1947, golden weddings are becoming rarer. People are living longer, but divorce is becoming commonplace. So a golden wedding has become a cause for surprise as well as congratulation.

Commonly at a golden wedding, both partners are congratulated equally. But in the royal marriage of a Queen, the husband can become the forgotten half of the partnership. The English are jealous of their Queens. Elizabeth I never married; Prince George of Denmark is forgotten; and Victoria was firmly advised not to create Prince Albert King. But in his difficult role of junior partner, the Duke has played his part as living metaphor for the enormous changes that have happened since his wedding.

They say that this is the people's century of the common man. But its second half has

become the half-century of the ascent of woman. Prince Philip's performance of his role three steps behind the Queen has set an example in the new world in which women now constitute a rising proportion of the workforce, and have become the breadwinners for many households. Without ever running the risk of being described as a wimp or a house husband, he has shown that there is dignity and usefulness in a supportive role. His public relations can be rough and bluff. But the traditional European aristocrat of 50 years ago has swum well with the emergent tides of history.

His charitable works both on stage and behind the scenes are helping to create a modern civil society. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is more than just a useful entry on an UCCA form. Since it was founded more than 25 million young people who are not all going to triumph in other ways have found hearty adventure and enterprise through it. Prince Philip enjoys the ancient royal blood sports. But he was an environmentalist before it became a fashion of the age, and as President Emeritus of the Worldwide Fund for Nature he is leading its campaigns for forests this year and the oceans next year. Even Cambridge's dons admire his lobbying behind the scenes for the university as Chancellor.

He has a reputation for speaking his mind, and occasionally for putting his foot in his mouth. But people rather like the royal loose cannon, in the way that they admired the supporting and occasionally indiscreet role played by Denis Thatcher. Similarly they like the no-nonsense attitudes and robust sense of humour of the Princess Royal, the child who is most like him.

It takes two to make a marriage. It can take a hero as well as a heroine to make a golden wedding. So in the loyal celebrations, let us not forget the Duke behind the Throne.

## ODOUR AND SANCTITY

Blair cannot escape past mistakes by making new ones

Tony Blair may have extended the length of Prime Minister's Question Time because he wanted a move away from partisan point-scoring and towards mature examination of government policy. It did not look like that yesterday. Mr Blair was asked, repeatedly, to clarify his stance on accepting money from Bernie Ecclestone and, repeatedly, ducked the issue. He chose, instead, to obscure the question of his own credibility by attacking the Tories' record. It is certainly true that skeletons still litter the Tory closet but Mr Blair cannot distract attention from his own conduct by rattling old bones. The electorate passed their own verdict on Conservative mistakes in May. If the Tories do not reform their own practices by the time of the next election the voters will be justified in withholding the trust which was forfeited in the Major years but Mr Blair is in office now and it is the Prime Minister's behaviour that is properly in the spotlight. The glare in which he has lurked may now be trained on areas he would rather keep hidden but it will not abate until a satisfactory explanation is offered to the questions which remain.

The central question raised by William Hague and his colleagues yesterday is painful and pertinent. The Prime Minister says he had decided on November 5 that he would not accept any further donations from Bernie Ecclestone. Given the Government's decision to exempt Formula One from its proposed ban on tobacco sponsorship such a judgment was only prudent. Yet the General Secretary of the Labour Party, Tom Sawyer, wrote to Sir Patrick Neill on November 7 asking if a further donation "might properly be accepted". Why ask Sir Patrick if it was all

right to sin when a decision had already been taken to be virtuous? Mr Blair asked the Commons yesterday to respect him for accepting Sir Patrick's advice. Having gone out of his way to ask, he could hardly have ignored Sir Patrick's response, but why did he ask in the first place if he had no intention of ever accepting? Mr Blair should not test public tolerance so brazenly.

He should certainly not use the events of the last fortnight as a justification for pre-empting the conclusions of Sir Patrick's review of party funding. The Prime Minister's enlistment of Paddy Ashdown in an effort to lay down the law now is an attempt to dispel the odour of the past fortnight with sanctity. Mr Hague was right to assert that he will make his own submissions in his own time. The Conservatives' position would certainly be strengthened by greater openness. Mr Hague has promised to publish the names of Tory donors and his party is late, by its own timetable, in publishing its accounts. Disclosure would free him to make the principled case against the proposals Mr Blair is keen to promote.

There is no doubt that the arguments need to be made as vigorously as possible. Attempts to cap the amounts individuals and organisations can spend at election time could prove a curtailment of liberty and a limit on pluralism. It may even run counter to the European Convention on Human Rights. Before any such steps are taken the Opposition must test whether these are disinterested improvements to democracy or the defensive strike of a party which wants to minimise the consequences of future unpopularity by padlocking its enemies' safes.

## RUSSIA TAKES CENTRE STAGE

A more pragmatic Russia is earning respect from the West

The Russians are back on the world stage — and the West is happy to welcome them. The four-power meeting in Geneva in the early hours of this morning, called to co-ordinate a united Security Council response to Saddam Hussein, underlines the crucial role that Moscow is again playing in a world crisis. The difference this time, unlike the period before the Gulf War, is that Moscow does not appear to be seeking unilateral advantage. No longer is a communist country trying to undercut the West with ideological blandishments to dictators: President Yeltsin's Russia now demonstrates a political maturity and pragmatism that are the most striking testaments to the democratic revolution that swept away the Soviet Union.

For several years after the collapse of communism, Russians were bewildered by the loss of empire and status. They demanded to be treated still with the deference and respect accorded to the former superpower; in return, however, they often displayed only petulance and posturing: uncertainty of their interests, policies or ideological bearings. Andrei Kozyrev, the pro-Western Foreign Minister, took his country down the path of practical co-operation with the West, but nationalists and communists at home plotted constantly to undermine him. Even Mr Yeltsin blew hot and cold on his new friends in the West, sometimes offering co-operation, but at other times banging the old drum of Russian special interests.

A calmer, more pragmatic and unified line now prevails. Economic reform, growing co-operation with international financial

organisations and a preoccupation with domestic living standards have all pushed the country into pursuing its interests in a more intelligent and less strident way. Earlier nationalist support for Serbia has given way to a restraining influence on Belgrade and effective military co-operation with Nato in Bosnia. The noisy campaign against Nato enlargement has been silenced as Russia tries to make the most of the Nato-Russia accord. Russia is at last taking seriously the need for a new relationship with Japan, including a fresh look at its occupation of the northern islands. Mr Yeltsin has just signed a landmark border agreement with China. And, most important of all, in the most sensitive areas — the former Soviet republics — restraint has replaced bullying.

Not all the old policies or personalities have changed. Yevgeni Primakov, the Foreign Minister, is a former senior communist, an old apparatchik who held top posts in the Politburo and the KGB. His friendship with Saddam, his previous record in the Gulf and a still grudging co-operation with the West suggest that he would be an awkward partner if allowed to dictate policy. Luckily, Mr Yeltsin and the rest of the Government are so firmly set on reform that they can insist on a closer web of contacts with the West. Just as the dismissal of Anatoli Chubais as Finance Minister no longer signals a defeat for reform, so Mr Primakov's conversations with Tariq Aziz, Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister, are no longer a threat to Security Council unity. Russia has earned its return to centre stage.

## Ferries must pay for deportations

From Admiral Sir Nicholas Hunt, Director-General of the Chamber of Shipping

Sir, Your leading article, "Attention all shipping" (November 14), asks why ferry operators should pay for ministerial blunders. It is wholly unjust that this national and indeed European problem should be laid at the door of the ferry companies. The problem is who should be allowed to stay in this country, not how they get here.

The ferry companies bring in these passengers legally and in good faith and have neither the responsibility nor the practical means of turning them away. It is therefore an issue that the Government must tackle both within the UK and in Europe.

Because the right to travel across Europe without visas is now available to people in many countries outside the EU there is nothing to prevent large numbers travelling quite legally as tourists coming to the UK and then seeking political asylum. No doubt the Government will refuse most applications but the cost of housing and feeding these people while they are being processed, and then of sending them home, will be very high.

The fundamental issue is one of immigration policy. This is the responsibility of the Government, not of private companies.

Yours faithfully,  
NICHOLAS HUNT,  
Director-General,  
The Chamber of Shipping,  
Carthusian Court,  
13 Carthusian Street, EC1,  
November 14.

From the Minister for Immigration

Sir, Your leading article describes my irritation at the Dublin Convention, but it is strange to call it "outrageous" for a minister to point out that it is a criminal offence for ferry companies to fail to comply with the law.

You suggest that there is a difference between "making arrangements" for someone's removal and paying for it. What does making arrangements mean if it doesn't include paying? It certainly does not mean that the taxpayer has to pay.

As to detention costs, of the 1,000 or so Czech and Slovak asylum-seekers brought to Dover in recent months, only 49 are detained. As carriers are only liable for the first 14 days of detention, the costs are limited.

The French do not refuse to accept returned passengers because more than 24 hours have elapsed; they do so because these people have claimed asylum and they say that, under the Convention, France is not responsible for considering that application.

Carriers who profit from bringing in people should pay for the return of those who are not admissible. It would not be fair to pass that burden to the taxpayer.

If the ferry companies wish to campaign for change, that is fine, but in the meantime the law is clear. It is hard to see how disagreement with the law can be a reasonable excuse for not complying with it.

Yours etc,  
MIKE O'BRIEN,  
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State,  
Home Office,  
Queen Anne's Gate, SW1,  
November 18.

Sexual stereotypes

From Mr Stephen Powers

Sir, Your feature, "Do these ads demean men?" (November 12), suggests that advertisements showing men as sex objects may indicate change in a traditionally sexist industry. From the pictures used to illustrate your story, however, it would appear that advertisers and agencies still like women's legs to be long, their heels to be high and their figures to be slim and curvaceous — just the way we chaps are supposed to like them.

All I can see is advertisers becoming more sophisticated in the way they manipulate stereotypes; the objectification of women appears to be as degrading as ever.

Times changing? I think not.

Yours faithfully,  
STEPHEN POWERS,  
55 Hyde Close,  
Forest Park, Oxfordshire,  
November 13.

Turkish question

From Mr Osman Streeter

Sir, If I provide the information that will allow your Internet-literate readers to vote for Peter Mandelson, Desperate Dan or whomever they fancy in the Time magazine poll, do you think they might consider laying off writing snide letters about the number of votes Ataturk has received (letters, November 10, 13, 17)?

I do think this would be helpful, especially at a time when British diplomacy is trying to persuade the Turks to allow the Incirlik base to be used to attack Iraq, and as usual is offering

## Preservation of Oxbridge privileges

From the President of Trinity College, Oxford

Sir, I have just returned from Beijing, where I had the privilege of co-chairing a Chinese professor's unique workshop on administrative law under the sponsorship of the European Commission. The Chinese delegates included judges, members of the practising profession and academics. While they may not have been wholly familiar with European concepts of the rule of law or judicial review, one facet of my chairmanship produced immediate recognition — my association with Oxford University.

During the conference I was also entertained by the editor-in-chief of the leading Chinese law publishing house, who expressed an interest in acquiring for translation English law books, as he put it in a memorandum, "recommended for students by Oxford University".

Can it really be sensible to put at risk a reputation which has penetrated so far and so well (report, "Pears join forces to defend E3m Oxbridge subsidy", November 13 letters, November 7, 11)? What do they know of Oxford who only England know?

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL BELOFF,  
Trinity College, Oxford,  
November 17.

From Professor John Sutherland

Sir, It is a perverse triumph of spin to have diverted the current debate on higher education to the desirability of cuts in funding.

The department in which I work came top in *The Times Good University Guide* with Oxford, edging out Cambridge. We — like them — offer one-to-one tutorials to all our students. This would seem to me a reason for some modest increase in our funding, rather than a punitive raid on the income of Oxbridge. The pennies which would result from any equitable redistribution of the £35 million will not help us and it will damage them.

It is grotesque to have to say it, but British higher education does not

## Climate change

From the Vice-President of the British Association of Colliery Management

Sir, I must take issue with the Deputy Prime Minister's letter (November 17) responding to Brownian Maddox's article on the American approach to climate change (*Business*, November 13). US policy is not "simply (to) delay by ten years the promises we made at Rio". Rather it is seeking to minimise future increases in emissions. In relation to carbon reductions the US is rightly worried that laudable, but hasty, action in the developed world might see heavy industries in the West transfer to third-world locations where the likelihood is they would be less not more energy efficient.

What must also be challenged is Mr Prescott's statement that "action on

need disinvestment under the guise of "fairness". It needs sensible investment in all its sectors.

Yours etc,  
JOHN SUTHERLAND  
(Lord Northcliffe Professor of Modern English Literature),  
University College London,  
Department of English,  
London WC1E 6BT.  
ucj@sus.ac.uk  
November 13.

From Mr Duncan Followell

Sir, In the Michaelmas issue of *Oxford Today*, the official university magazine, the editorial introduction to a survey of new Oxonian MPs begins: "It is a healthy sign that the proportion of MPs educated at Oxbridge is in decline..."

I find this death wish in one of the two most successful English institutions quite terrifying. And if the editor appears to consider the influence of Oxford on national life unhealthy, why doesn't she edit something else?

Yours faithfully,  
DUNCAN FOLLOWELL,  
44 Leamington Road Villas, W11,  
November 13.

From Dr James Doyle

Sir, Lord Plant of Highfield holds that Oxford's research excellence would be harmed by any funding cuts and the consequent threat to the collegiate system.

I am a recently retired teacher from Edinburgh Medical School. There we had to cope with an overnight 50 per cent cut in the medical library's periodical and journals fund. Our dental school was just abolished.

We suffered these losses while the Oxbridge extra cash was being paid. In the Lords debate it was suggested that it was "the politics of envy" to criticise this anomaly. Well, I plead guilty: my face went the colour of Lord Jenkins of Hillhead's favourite claret with envy.

Yours faithfully,  
JAMES DOYLE,  
27 Leamington Terrace, Edinburgh 4,  
November 14.

climate change need not harm economic growth". Fulfilling the 10 per cent reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> by 2010 (the so-called Berlin Mandate) would do more damage to the West than the oil crisis of the 1970s. The Lawrence Livermore Laboratory estimates the impact on US energy prices to be an increase of between 80 per cent and 90 per cent.

In seeking multilateral agreement the Government should not pretend that the targets are painless, and perhaps they could also explain why the UK is unilaterally committed to twice the level of pain required by other countries.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD COURTNEY,  
Vice-President, British Association of Colliery Management,  
17 South Parade,  
Doncaster, South Yorkshire,  
November 18.

## Parish audit fees

From the Chairman of Bishopsbourne Parish Council

Sir, Your report of today (earlier edition) headed "Parish refuses to pay audit fee" highlights a county-wide scandal. Our parish councils are being treated as if we were Westminster City Council.

Bishopsbourne is very similar to Mappowder, with a precept of £650 last year with 191 electors. We also give grants to the village hall and the church and are responsible for the bus shelter. Last year the audit fee that we had to pay was £92. This year we have been told that the audit fee to be charged by the Audit Commission will be "greater than in the past. The increased fee, which still has to be finalised, is a result of the new regulations."

The Audit Commissions charges are excessive and an additional tax burden on our council-tax payers for no return when our accounts could be audited in about half an hour.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN J. GRAHAM,  
Chairman,  
Bishopsbourne Parish Council,  
Pheasants Hall, Bishopsbourne,  
Nr Canterbury, Kent,  
November 15.

Kemal Ataturk's achievements, by the standards of the time, were astounding. In the aftermath of a devastating war, he created a new, modern, non-imperial state. He abolished the Sultanate and the Caliphate.

He diverted the activities of the Islamic clergy from destructive fanaticism into constructive educational and social welfare policies. He created a popular education system, abolished polygamy, freed women from the veil and other discriminatory policies, introduced the Latin script and adopted Western codes of law.

As H. A. L. Fisher wrote in his *History of Europe* (1936), "the dervish, the chromancer, the magician, the dice thrower and amulet seller were decreed out of existence".

Yours faithfully,  
ALAN THOMPSON,  
11 Upper Gray Street,  
Edinburgh 9,  
November 11.

## Getting about by train and by bike

From Mr Tom Culver

Sir, It is ironic that only two days after a guard told me that South West Trains is planning to introduce charges for cycles I read in your issue of today that Railtrack is hoping to open cycle-hire agencies at stations.

Railtrack has got it almost right. By combining rail and cycle travel one can get to almost anywhere in England. Any person fit enough to walk one mile can cycle five; and one can count on doing about ten miles an hour without very much effort.

I am an overweight 59-year-old bantam and I manage to get to most of the courts in London on my bike, and over much of the South East by train and bike. I get there as quickly as I could by public transport, and often more quickly than one could by car. I cycle all the year round, as can any fit person. I regard cycle and train as the future for terrestrial travel.

However, cycle hire at stations is not quite the answer. Cycles are more like shoes than cars: they need to fit you, and any regular cyclist is not only more comfortable on his own bike but safer — he knows where the brakes and gears are and is comfortable with the balance.

What is needed, therefore, is facilities for bikes on trains. South rail companies, including South West Trains, are beginning to encourage bikes. But charges and the need to pre-book are immense disincentives. Perhaps Railtrack could waive charges for those parts of carriages used for transporting cycles.

Yours faithfully,  
TOM CULVER,  
Cloisters,  
1 Pump Court, Temple, EC4,  
November 17.

From Inspector Adrian Walter

Sir, May I suggest that the Railtrack directors take their bicycle hire scheme one stage further and concrete over the track between Hertford North and Moorgate. I could then cycle to work, which would be more reliable and arguably quicker.

Yours etc,  
A. P. WALTER,  
The NMIS Project Office,  
Room 201,  
Tintagel House,  
Albert Embankment, SE1,  
November 18.

## Traffic congestion

From Mr Don McIntyre

Sir, Your report of November 10 on the recent congestion survey by Trafficmaster was misleadingly headlined: "Wider motorways blamed for jams". In fact the survey clearly states that:

The increased rate of congestion is being influenced by the relatively buoyant state of the economy, which makes use of transport for business and leisure more likely.

The recently published *Road Traffic Forecasts (Great Britain) 1997* points out that lack of road improvement appears to be no deterrent to growth in use.

Road improvements on the Isle of Wight have been minimal. There are no motorways or trunk roads there, but traffic has grown at least as fast as in Great Britain as a whole.

Our transport problems, and the critical need for further road improvements, alongside demand-management measures and improved public transport, are far too serious to be misrepresented by catchy headlines.

Yours faithfully,  
DON MCINTYRE,  
Head of Highways and Traffic,  
Freight Transport Association,  
Hermes House,  
St John's Road,  
Tunbridge Wells, Kent,  
November 18.

## Blessed villages

From Mr P. L. Crosland

Sir, Only 30 villages are believed to share the luck experienced by Aisholt on the Quantocks of having all combatants return alive from the First War (letter, November 15). According to the Somerset volume of the *King's England* series these were known as "thankful villages", though luck undoubtedly played a part.

All eight combatants returned from the Second World War to the tiny Somerset village of Stocklinch, adding to the 19 who survived the Great War. I doubt if many other villages were as fortunate as these two.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER CROSLAND,  
Spracklets Orchard,  
Curry Rivel,  
Langport, Somerset,  
November 17.

## An everyday tale

From Mr Jon Massey

Sir, Is the plan to sacrifice children's Radio 4 in favour of an extra episode of *The Archers* the first example of the dum-di-dum-di-dum-di-dumming down of the BBC?

Yours etc,  
JON MASSEY,  
Knackersknowle Cottage,  
Whitehill Avenue,  
Crownhill, Plymouth, Devon,  
November 18.

Why the US won't go to war  
Michael Ke...







OBITUARIES

THE REV EDWARD ROGERS

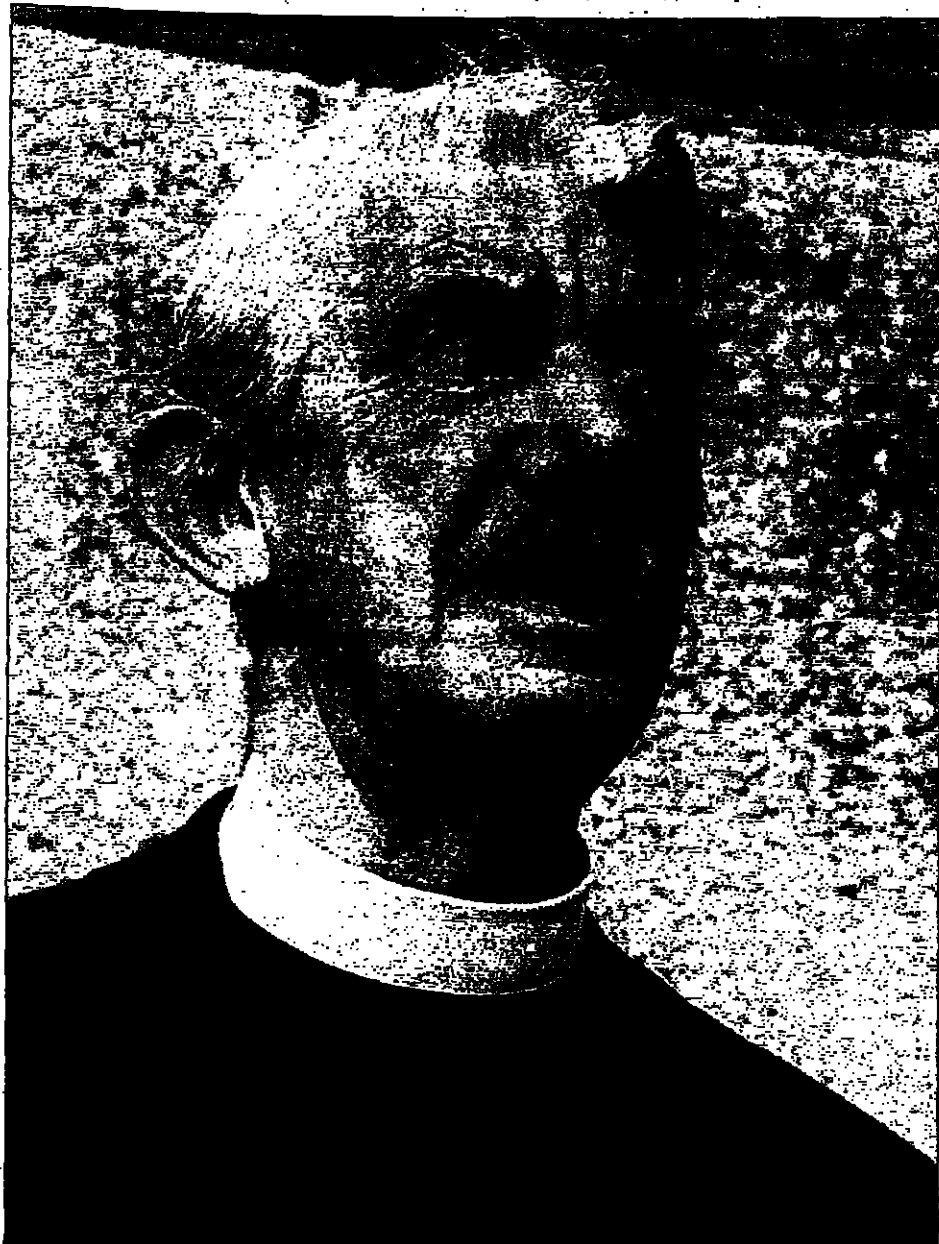
The Rev Edward Rogers, Methodist minister and former Moderator of the Free Church Federal Council, died on October 27 aged 88. He was born on January 4, 1909.

In a ministry that spanned 65 years Edward Rogers served the Methodist Church in the East London Mission, rural Derbyshire; the Midlands and on the northwest coast. He was for many years one of the principal spokesmen of Methodism on social questions, serving from 1950 to 1975 as a distinguished secretary of the Christian Citizenship Department (subsequently the Division of Social Responsibility), which is specially charged with guiding church thinking on moral aspects of contemporary affairs.

He also represented the Methodist Church for more than 30 years as a member of the British Council of Churches. He was the most senior former Moderator of the Free Church Federal Council, and was a past president of the Methodist Conference, having for his year of office had as his vice-president his contemporary George Thomas, later Viscount Tynan, who died five weeks before him.

Edward Rogers was born at Fleetwood, Lancashire, the son of a trowler master. His mother died when he was six and his father, who captained a minesweeper during the First World War, was killed in action. He was brought up by his grandmother, a devout Methodist, who made considerable sacrifices to send him to Baines's Poulton-le-Pyde Grammar School and later to Manchester University, where he read economics and politics and took a master's degree.

He considered a career as a professional economist, but was repelled by the materialistic attitude of much economic thinking and decided instead to study at Hartley Victoria College, Manchester, where he trained for the Methodist ministry. Although he had been brought up within the Primitive Methodist Church, his entry into the ministry coincided with the Methodist Union of 1932, so that when he eventually became president of the Methodist Conference, he was able to claim that he was the first man to do so who had spent the whole of his ministry within the united Church.



His first appointment was in Canning Town, East London, and during the years of industrial depression he had an opportunity of studying poverty at first hand. This helped to mould his early interest in economic questions, and though he was never a sentimentalist, he was stirred by the need for more intelligent and practical understanding of the factors which made such hardship possible. After two years in Bakersfield, Derbyshire, he went in 1939 to Sutton Park, Birmingham, where despite wartime difficulties he gained his reputation as a thoughtful and provocative preacher and skilled administrator. In 1947 he was appointed to Southport, Lancashire, and by this time his facility in debate and his knowledge of politics and

economics — matters which are never far from the thoughts of a modern Methodist Conference — had marked him out as a Conference figure of great potential. In 1950, when the sudden death of the Rev Noel Hutchcroft created a vacancy in the secretariat of the Christian Citizenship Department, it seemed almost inevitable that Rogers should be selected to fill it. The Christian Citizenship Department of the Methodist Church was the successor of the Temperance and Social Welfare Department which the Rev Henry Carter made into a formidable instrument in the early years of the century. Formed primarily to support the Methodist dislike of intemperance, it was turned by Carter into a machine to foster practical

thinking and to create a social concern far wider than the preoccupations with the evils of alcohol. With this wider aim Rogers had been sympathetic. Both in co-operation with the Rev E. C. Urwin, whom he was to succeed as senior secretary in 1953, and then in a most creative partnership with Kenneth Greet for many years, he insisted on a careful collection of facts, and impressed the Church with his view that mere uninformed indignation was not a constructive policy. His task was made no easier by more enthusiastic zealots inside the Church, but though not tempering, he insisted on the need for tolerance. With the Church sharply divided on such questions as pacifism, he was a master of drafting

JOHN CARSWELL

John Carswell, CB, civil servant, historian and former Secretary of the British Academy, died on November 12 aged 79. He was born on May 30, 1918.



JOHN CARSWELL led an extraordinary double life. By day he was a senior civil servant, deeply involved in the expansion of Britain's universities in the 1960s and 1970s. But at night he became a serious historian, specialising in the late 17th and 18th centuries. For years his family in Hampstead was lulled to sleep by the rattle of his typewriter into the small hours.

The historians Hugh Trevor-Roper (now Lord Dacre) and A. L. Rowse were among those who praised his work — including such books as *The Descent on England* (about the 1688 Glorious Revolution) and *The South Sea Bubble*. Rowse, reviewing the latter when it first appeared in 1960, described it as "the best book on the subject".

On retiring from Whitehall at the age of 60, Carswell was appointed secretary of the British Academy and ran the staff side of that august body for five years. He oversaw its move from Piccadilly to its recent headquarters in Regent's Park and became a close friend of the then president Sir Isaiah Berlin. (The two men were to die within a few days of each other.)

John Patrick Carswell came from an impressively literary background. Born in Hampstead, he was the son of a barrister and author — who was to perish in the Second World War when he stepped under a bus in the London black-out.

His mother Catherine Carswell was, however, the more distinguished. A prominent member of the literary circle of her day she was a close friend of John Buchan and, slightly incongruously, of D. H. Lawrence as well. Her own output included two novels and a war-and-all biography of Robert Burns which caused a rumpus in 1930. Her revelations of the poet's love life prompted one outraged Scot to send her a bullet.

Carswell went from Merchant Taylors' School to St John's College, Oxford, to read history, graduating just before the Second World War. Commissioned into the South Lancashire Regiment, he served from 1940 until 1946, mainly in staff jobs in India. Demobilised as a major, he then joined the Ministry of

Pensions and National Insurance at a time when the welfare state was being created. He was seconded for a year in the mid-1950s to act as joint secretary to the Phillips Committee on the Economic and Financial Problems of Provision for Old Age. This was followed by two years as principal private secretary to the then Minister of Pensions, John Boyd-Carpenter.

In 1961 Carswell left for the Treasury, where he was chiefly concerned with the financial ramifications of the Robbins Committee on Higher Education and university expansion. Apart from a brief spell at the Ministry of Health, higher education was to preoccupy him thereafter.

He moved to the Department of Education and Science for a number of years, then in 1974 was made secretary of the University Grants Committee (UGC). He held this post until his retirement as a deputy under-secretary, then joined the British Academy in 1978. He had been appointed CB in 1977.

The academy, to which he was devoted, had already good reason to feel indebted to him. While at the UGC, Carswell had been instrumental in securing a number of research grants for it, thus enabling a significant expansion of its activities.

He remained a frequent and valued contributor to such journals as the *TLS* and *History Today*. But his dozen or so books also included one on government and the universities, another on the Civil Service and one entitled *The*

*Saving of Kenwood and the Northern Heights*. The last of these reflected his passionate concern for the conservation of Hampstead. He served for a time as chairman of the Heath and Old Hampstead Society in succession to Peggy Jay. Carswell was also a life member of the Institute of Historical Research, and had been a history research fellow at University College London since 1983.

Despite his depth of scholarship, Carswell was a sociable family man, with a wide circle of friends and an appetite for the theatre and extensive travel. An enthusiastic member of the Garrick, he lunched there at least once a week.

Every year he would join Sir Peter Strawson, former Waynflete Professor of Metaphysical Philosophy at Oxford and a friend from university days, for a five-day walking tour.

He and Strawson also shared a passion for 18th and early-19th-century war games. They could be seen happily scrambling about Carswell's garden from time to time, deploying regiments of toy soldiers or firing one-inch nails at them from toy cannons.

He married his wife Lanthier in 1944. A childhood friend from Hampstead, she had gone out to India herself while working for the Ministry of Information, and they were married in Delhi. John Carswell, who had suffered increasingly from osteoporosis in the last year or two, is survived by her and their two daughters.

JOHN PARKMAN

John Parkman, MBE, head of the Wales Regional Crime Squad, died on October 31 aged 81. He was born on September 28, 1916.

JOHN PARKMAN was the longest-serving detective in Wales, climbing through the ranks from a "beat bobby" in Tiger Bay, Cardiff, to assistant chief constable and head of the

Wales Regional Crime Squad. He spent most of his 33 years service in the CID, and was acknowledged as one of the sharpest brains in the police forces in Britain. He helped to send murderers to the gallows and put gangsters behind bars, but it was the coal tip disaster at Aberfan that gave him his greatest challenge. As head of the Regional

Crime Squad he was in charge of the team of detectives who had the heart-rending job of identifying the bodies of the 116 children and 28 adults who were buried beneath an avalanche of shale on October 21, 1966. He showed great compassion to the grieving parents, but the nightmare of those days stayed with him for the rest of his life. Three years after Aberfan,

William John Parkman was in charge of security at Caernarfon Castle for the Investiture of Prince Charles as Prince of Wales. A boy had recently lost his legs in a bombing in the area, so the threat of a sniper's bullet or terrorist bomb was a real possibility, as Welsh extremists protested against the Investiture. The security success at Caernarfon added to the fears

of chief constables in Britain that the regional crime squads were gaining too much power. A political decision was taken to break up the squads, and the regional co-ordinators — including Parkman — were given the alternatives of taking a drop in rank or leaving the force.

Parkman opted out of the job he loved, bringing to an end more than three decades of service, which had started in 1937 when he joined the former Cardiff City Police Force, where his mother, Annie Parkman, was keeper and cleaner of the cells. After four years in uniform, Constable Parkman was transferred to the CID and spent a year as a detective before joining the Royal Air Force.

He won his pilot's wings, and as a flying officer served as an instructor in South Africa, Rhodesia, the Middle East and Italy. On leaving the Air Force he became a detective, busting the gangs which were springing up in Cardiff in the postwar years.

As a chief inspector in 1962, he pioneered a move which was a forerunner of the regional crime squads in which he was to play a major role. He brought together detectives from his own force, Newport, Monmouthshire and



Glamorgan to fight crime on a united front. It was the murder of a woman on the border between Cardiff and Glamorgan that led to this. Ordinance survey maps were brought out to decide which of the two neighbouring forces should

conduct the investigation. Valuable time was wasted and the killer was never caught.

The principle of regional and national policing remained with Parkman for the rest of his life. Earlier this year he wrote to *The Times* spelling

out the advantages of shared intelligence and united efforts to beat drug barons, terrorism and major criminals.

When the question of capital punishment was being debated in the 1960s, John Parkman drove from Cardiff to Nottingham to question a suspect in the fatal shooting of a man on the doorstep of a house in Cardiff. He arrested Edgar Valentine Black, who admitted shooting the victim, who had had an affair with Black's wife.

As they drove back to South Wales, Black asked if he could have a pint. Parkman broke all the rules. He took the handcuffs off the prisoner and they had two pints of beer in a crowded bar before continuing the journey. Three months later Black was sentenced to death, only to be reprieved two days before the execution day. He died in prison last year.

John Parkman also made a name for himself as a swimmer. He was captain of the Welsh water polo team, played for the British Police team and was an Olympic triathlete. He also held the record for the Taff Swim in Cardiff.

He was appointed MBE in 1971 and is survived by his wife, Valmai, a son and a daughter.

PERSONAL COLUMN

ANNOUNCEMENTS

High Wycombe Auctioneers and Estate Agents, 100 High Wycombe Road, High Wycombe, Bucks. HP12 3JF. Tel: 0494 511111.

THE POLICE COMMUNICATIONS UNIT, 100 High Wycombe Road, High Wycombe, Bucks. HP12 3JF. Tel: 0494 511111.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND BENEFICIARIES TO SEND IN CLAIMS UNDER SECTION 2 OF THE TRUSTEE ACT 1925

MAXWELL COMMUNICATIONS PENSION PLAN

USE WELL POWER TO CHEAT DEATH

INDIAN KIDNEY

3-4 St. Andrew's Court, St. Andrew's, London, E14 6AP. Tel: 0181 494 4444.

THE RAF RISES TO THE CHALLENGE

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# THE TIMES

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 20 1997

**Merrill Lynch**

US investment bank acquires leading British fund manager

**MERCURY**  
ASSET MANAGEMENT

**BUSINESS TODAY**

## Merrill pays £3.1bn for MAM

Analysts hail deal as a 'brilliant coup' for Mercury

By RICHARD MILES, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

MERCURY Asset Management, the UK's biggest fund manager, stunned the City yesterday by announcing it had agreed to a £3.1 billion takeover by Merrill Lynch, the US investment bank.

Financial analysts hailed the deal as a "brilliant coup" for MAM, which has been the target for some heavy criticism in recent months because of the poor performance of its main pooled pension fund.

Hugh Stevenson, the chairman of MAM, will become non-executive chairman for a year to oversee the integration of the two businesses. Carol Galley, widely regarded as the most powerful woman in the City, and Stephen Zimmerman are to be co-heads of MAM and sit on Merrill Lynch's executive management committee. There will be no redundancies at MAM.

Merrill Lynch is still working on an incentive scheme to lock in MAM's 1,300 employees, who between them own 3 per cent of the company's shares. Herb Allison, president and chief operating officer at the US investment bank, indicated that the schemes would reward long-term performance and loyalty.

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£266 billion of funds, placing it behind only Fidelity and Axa, the French insurer. MAM gains much-needed access to the US market and Merrill Lynch's vast capital.

MAM directors, who stand to make £32.4 million from the sale of their shares alone, unanimously recommended the offer to shareholders. Directors will receive tens of millions of pounds more from phantom share and option schemes that crystallise when the deal is completed.

Shares in MAM soared on news of the deal, rising 380p to £16.75. Other fund managers saw their shares rise steeply,



Herb Allison, left, with Hugh Stevenson, Michael Marks, of Merrill Lynch Europe, and David Causer, MAM's finance director, yesterday

excellent price for shareholders, fully reflecting the underlying value of Mercury.

Speculation about MAM has been unrelenting since the fund manager severed its links with SG Warburg, the merchant bank, now owned by SBC, the Swiss bank, in June 1995. Its surprise acquisition

will intensify speculation about the remaining fund managers, particularly M&G, which is being stalked by Halifax. Barclays has also expressed interest in buying a fund manager.

The deal will also push up the value of UK fund managers. Merrill Lynch is paying the equivalent of 3 per cent of funds under management; the industry norm is about 2 per cent.

Mr Stevenson said: "Since 1987, Mercury has an exceptional record of providing shareholder value and, at the offer price, the total return to shareholders has exceeded their investment by over 30 times. This offer provides an

**STOCK MARKET INDICES**

FTSE 100	4830.1	(-15.3)
FTSE All share	2285.91	(-5.08)
Nikkei	15842.46	(-84.11)
Dow Jones	7690.35	(+39.54)
S&P Composite	943.35	(+5.13)

**US RATE**

Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	101 1/4%	(100 1/4%)
Yield	6.04%	(6.08%)

**LONDON MONEY**

3-mth Interbank	7 1/4%	(7 1/4%)
Libor long gilt	11 1/2%	(11 1/2%)

**STERLING**

New York	1.6915*	(1.6910)
London	1.6902	(1.6941)
DM	2.2226	(2.2225)
FF	5.8024	(5.7875)
Sfr	2.2731	(2.2730)
Yen	215.14	(212.98)
S Index	104.0	(103.8)

**US DOLLAR**

London	1.7332*	(1.7290)
DM	5.8010*	(5.7905)
FF	1.4040*	(1.4050)
Yen	127.00*	(126.18)
S Index	106.3	(105.7)

**NORTH SEA OIL**

Brent 15-day (Feb)	\$19.10	(\$19.20)
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**GOLD**

London close	\$305.25	(\$305.55)
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**Utility's bill**  
Hyder, the Welsh water and electricity company, raised its pre-tax profits from £100.7 million to £105.4 million in the six months to the end of September. After deduction of a £282 million windfall tax charge, the group suffered a £190 million loss. Page 32

**FKI strategy**  
FKI, the industrial products group, expects strong cash flow and disposals to top up its coffers sufficiently to permit it to make more acquisitions. Page 33

## Safeway shares in biggest one-day fall after warning

By FRASER NELSON

SAFEWAY shares suffered their sharpest one-day fall yesterday as the group gave warning that fierce competition from its rival supermarkets and supply problems will eliminate any profits growth this year.

The company is freezing its interim dividend after blaming the advance of J Sainsbury, image problems and stock shortages for a sharp downturn in autumn sales growth. In spite of promising to return £600 million to shareholders over the next three years, its shares plunged 16 per cent, to 330p, as analysts downgraded year-end profits forecasts by £30 million to £420 million.

Colin Smith, chief executive, said the first half showed 3 per cent like-for-like sales growth

and underlying pre-tax profit of £230 million (£223 million). But since October 11, this growth has slumped to 0.2 per cent - all from inflation, with no underlying improvement. He said: "We have seen the strength of the results coming from our competitors, especially Sainsbury. We cannot divorce the results from what's been going on with us."

Food delivery problems are also holding back growth, he said, adding to the continuing problem of Safeway being seen as an expensive store.

After a £9.6 million interest charge from its earlier share buyback, earnings were 14.9p (14.4p) a share. The 44p dividend, held for the first time ever, is due February 9.

Commentary, page 29



Smith: delivery problems

## P&O gets backing for joint sailing with Stena Line

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND DOMINIC WALSH

P&O and Stena Line were given the go-ahead yesterday to merge cross-Channel ferry services but will have to cap passenger fares if rival companies are forced off the route.

The Department of Trade and Industry and the European Commission agreed the long-awaited decision to allow the two companies to run joint services between Dover and Calais, Dover-Zeebrugge and Newcastle-Dierke. The move will lead to a loss of 1,000 out of 5,000 jobs and a reduction in cross-Channel sailings.

However, the companies have been ordered to give an undertaking within three months that they will cap prices if a duopoly develops with Euronor.

Ministers and European commissioners in Brussels still fear the merged company could prove so dominant that rivals such as SeaFrance and Hoverspeed are forced to withdraw from the short route. Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, made clear concerns that prices could rise after the likely abolition, in 1999, of the duty-free concession that enables ferry operators to peg fares.

The companies, which together have 40 per cent of the short-crossings market, will move swiftly to combine services. The merged company, P&O Stena Line, will be 60 per cent owned by the British company. Both companies insist the move is intended to cut costs, estimated at £75 million, rather than increase fares.

Commentary, page 29

## Glaxo blunders over dividend

THERE were red faces at Glaxo Wellcome yesterday after the pharmaceuticals company owned up to a glaring corporate error over its half-year dividend.

George Sivell writes. It was meant to be paid as a foreign income dividend to shareholders but as a result of what Glaxo described as an "administrative error" it was paid as an ordinary dividend.

This means that non-taxpaying shareholders, such as pension funds, are short of some of their dividend. Glaxo says they will be sent a tax credit to compensate although it does not expect the tax charge to be affected. It refused to comment on whether heads would roll but pointed out that the bulk of the cost of the mistake would be a £250,000 bill for posting an explanatory letter to shareholders.

Glaxo said the mistake was first spotted internally. The news accompanied a trading statement showing sales 3 per cent down to £5.711 billion in the first ten months of this year.

## Troubled Ionica sees shares slide

SHARES of Ionica, the wireless telecommunications group that floated in August, lost 40 per cent of their value yesterday after the company revealed delays with software, unexpected capacity limits and the introduction of tighter credit procedures.

Raymond Snoddy writes. Immediately after flotation Ionica shares reached 421p, valuing the company at £714 million. Yesterday they plunged 101p to 320p, reducing its market value to £437 million. Nigel Playford, founder and chief executive, said he understood the reaction of the analysts but emphasised that the company was building a long-term business. He said underlying demand for Ionica's services was strong. The company revealed the difficulties as it announced results for the six months to September 30, showing pre-tax losses of £61.5 million, after £15 million last time. The number of residential customers rose 27 per cent in the second quarter to around 31,000, below forecasts.

Commentary, page 29

## Marchpole chief to pocket £11m

MICHAEL MORRIS, chief executive of Marchpole Holdings, the Yves Saint Laurent (YSL) menswear group and sponsor of the Regent Street Christmas lights, will pocket £11 million when the company floats on the stock market next month.

Domonic Walsh. Mr Morris, who joined the group in 1985, is retaining a 38 per cent stake worth at least £50 million. However, Michael Reiner, one of the founders who retired from the board at the beginning of the year, is cashing in his remaining stake for an estimated £13 million.

The company announced yesterday that it plans to place up to 61.2 million shares at between 120p and 150p, valuing the company at between £140 million and £165 million. Up to 32.5 million will be placed by the company, raising around £99 million to pay off preference share capital and loan stock. Existing investors are offloading another 28.7 million shares.

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# Rebound in high street sales stirs fears of rate rise

By ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

HIGH street sales bounced back sharply in October, resurrecting fears in the City of further interest rate rises.

Retail sales volumes, which slumped in September because of shop closures for the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, jumped 2.8 per cent in October, pushing the annual rate of growth up from 3.7 per cent to 6.4 per cent.

The cold weather provided a boost for clothing and footwear sales, which rose 8.2 per cent in the month — the biggest monthly gain for ten years. Household goods sales also bounced back, rising 4 per cent over the month, after the latest windfall payout from Northern Rock.

But the Treasury insisted that the headline figures, which were stronger than the

City had expected, disguised some evidence of a slowdown in the quarterly growth rate.

Sales in August to October increased just 0.4 per cent over the previous quarter, with the slowdown most apparent in sectors that had previously benefited from windfall spending. Sales of household goods fell 2.2 per cent compared with the previous quarter.

A Treasury spokesman said: "Taking September and October together and smoothing out the impact on retail sales of the funeral, retail sales were little changed from the previous three months."

Economists, however, were divided on whether the tentative signs of a slowdown would be sufficient to persuade the Bank of England to refrain from further rate rises

in the next few months. Richard Illey, UK economist at Hoes, e Govett, said: "While a final festive binge cannot be ruled out, windfall spending has probably peaked."

But Jonathan Loyne, UK economist at HSBC, said: "Any slowdown looks too little too late to prevent the monetary policy committee from pushing interest rates up further."

□ The Bank of England has appointed John Vickers, of Oxford University, as its chief economist to replace Mervyn King, who is stepping up to become a Deputy Governor of the Bank.

Mr Vickers is currently Drummond Professor of Political Economy at All Souls College, Oxford, and is a member of Ofiel's economic committee. An expert on industrial and regulatory economics, he served on Labour's competition advisory committee and previously worked as a financial analyst at Shell.

A Bank spokesman said: "We are pleased to have attracted such a top-notch economist who will bring a different economic perspective to the Bank."

Mr Vickers will also join the monetary policy committee, once Mr King officially becomes Deputy Governor after the enactment of the Bank of England Bill next spring.



DAWSON International, the Scottish knitwear producer which makes Pringle sweaters, has assured the City that its recovery plan will keep profits on track despite difficult autumn trading. Derek Finlay, chairman, above, saw

a drop in prices of cashmere yarn send pre-tax profits to an expected £6.3 million (£7.5 million) for the 27 weeks to October 4. Earnings were 2.6p a share, against 3.2p, and the interim dividend rises to 1.67p, against 1.5p.

## Revenue wins Botnar ruling

By JASON NISSE

THE Inland Revenue yesterday won a £100 million tax ruling against Octav Botnar, the 84-year-old tycoon. But as the former Nissan UK chief vowed to appeal, his lawyers said that the Revenue had little chance of collecting the money.

Mr Justice Evans-Lombe overturned a previous decision by the Revenue's Special Commissioners that Mr Botnar did not have to pay tax on dividends paid to his charitable trust by Nissan UK.

The move comes just two weeks after the Revenue dropped its case against Mr Botnar alleging tax fraud, saying he was too ill to stand trial. Mr Botnar has been living in Switzerland since the Revenue raided his offices in 1991, but now plans to return to the UK.

Mr Justice Evans-Lombe ruled that as the deeds of the trust specifically precluded Mr Botnar and his wife from benefiting from the trust, they could have potentially benefited by changing the deeds.

In his ruling, the judge pointed out that between 1988 and 1990 the trust had owned the lease on a flat in Eaton Square, Central London, occupied by Mr Botnar. However, Jeffrey Greene, Russell, Mr Botnar's lawyers, said that this lease had been put in the wrong trust in error and that Mr Botnar had paid £50,000 tax to cover the error.

Yesterday Mr Botnar vowed to appeal against the ruling, describing it as "highly creative" and "bearing no resemblance to reality". Mark Spragg, a partner at Jeffrey Green Russell, said that the judge had only considered one out of six points raised by the Special Commissioner.

Mr Spragg added that the Revenue would be unlikely to be able to collect the £68 million of back tax or the £30 million or so of interest that has accumulated. Mr Botnar has few assets in the UK and the Revenue is not allowed, under Swiss law, to claim tax payments from Switzerland or even discuss UK tax matters on Swiss soil.

## Welfare to Work warning

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government was warned yesterday by a Labour-dominated committee of MPs that its New Deal Welfare to Work programme will be "disastrous" unless ministers quickly improve its education and training provisions.

The committee's warning came as it published an early analysis of the £2.5 billion New Deal jobs scheme, under which the young and long-term unemployed will be offered work or training without the option of remaining on benefit.

Employment specialists insist that the quality of education and training offered under the New Deal will be vital to its success, but Derek Foster, chairman of the all-party Commons Employment Select Committee, said the Government had not yet ensured that the education and training elements of the New Deal were fully in place.

Speaking at the launch of the committee's report on the New Deal, he said: "The time is short. And they had better get on with it very quickly indeed. The consequences if we don't will be disastrous for the programme, and for the young people themselves."

Unemployed young people, he said, would gauge the programme on whether it led to a job and offered real opportunities.

MPs on the committee said there was "widespread optimism" about the programme.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### UK pension funds defy market turmoil

BRITISH pension funds have enjoyed strong growth this year despite the stock market turmoil, according to a report from the WM Company, the financial performance consultants. By September 30, the average pension fund showed an actual return since January of 18.9 per cent, although sharp falls on markets around the world in October are likely to have reduced that by about 6 per cent.

WM described the 12 per cent return over the first ten months as a "healthy average". Peter Warrington of WM said: "As funds produced a return of 6 per cent in September, October's fall only neutralised September's rise and so can be seen as little more than a slight market correction, returning funds to the level reached at the end of August. Some managers had expected and positioned themselves for a more severe fall than has taken place so far." He added: "The ten-month return compares favourably with an average annual return over the last ten calendar years of 11.9 per cent."

### Murdoch son appointed

JAMES MURDOCH, 24, the son of Rupert Murdoch, has been appointed president of News America Digital Publishing, the newly consolidated Internet publishing division of News Corporation, parent company of The Times. He will be responsible for the electronic versions of media outlets like TV Guide, Fox News and Fox Sports television. James Murdoch said: "We will be able to offer consumers a compelling arsenal of digital publishing products and services."

### Milk Marque offer

MILK MARQUE, the dominant supplier of milk in England and Wales, is seeking to offer long-term contracts to customers. David Yeomans, chief executive, will tell the Agra Europe conference in London today. The move is designed to encourage investment in processing capacity by offering dairy companies secure milk supplies at market-related prices. Milk Marque's own moves into the processing of raw milk have come under pressure recently.

### Estée Lauder expands

ESTÉE LAUDER, which makes make-up products and fragrances, said it would buy Aveda Corp, a maker of shampoos and other hair care products, for \$300 million (£176 million) in cash. Aveda, based in Minneapolis, sells its 700 products primarily through distributors to about 30,000 professional salons and also operates 130 Aveda stores. Estée Lauder declined to say how much annual revenues Aveda generates and also declined to say how Estée Lauder would finance the deal.

### Lloyd's reviews rules

LOYD'S OF LONDON is set to revise its rules governing which brokers can use its insurance market, allowing access for more firms, the chairman, Sir David Rowland, said. Lloyd's will "explore the way the best brokers in each territory, who may not be Lloyd's brokers at all, can become part of the network", he said. Only brokers meeting strict criteria can place business in Lloyd's market. A review is needed because the number of Lloyd's brokers has plateaued, Sir David said.

### Asian syndicates forecast

UP TO 20 Lloyd's of London underwriting syndicates could set up in Singapore when it completes negotiations to open its Asian headquarters in the city state, Sir David Rowland, the Lloyd's chairman, said. He added: "I can't give you a precise number, but if it was a dozen, I think it would be a very good start indeed." Lloyd's has been in discussions with Singapore insurance authorities to establish a trading presence for about 18 months.

### Peer backs Mentorn

THE MENTORN GROUP, owner of Mentorn Barraclough Carey, the independent television production company, is being backed by Lord Lloyd-Webber, the composer and businessman, for an expansion of its radio interests. The company, which has a turnover of around £30 million a year, has recently set up a broadcast division to bring together its radio interests. Lord Lloyd-Webber has taken a personal 25 per cent stake in Mentorn Broadcast for about £2 million.

### EBRD profits rise

THE European Bank for Reconstruction and Development reported a profit before provisions of 45 million euros (£30.4 million) and a two million euros profit after provisions in the three months to September 30. The EBRD said its year-to-date profit before provisions increased to 149.9 million euros (£97.7 million euros), and profit after provisions grew to 15.1 million euros (£2.2 million euros). Year-to-date provisions were 134.8 million euros (£67.5 million euros).

### Concentric disposal

CONCENTRIC has sold the assets of the loss-making, non-satellite part of its Concentric (Press) Products subsidiary for £7 million to European Commercial Pressings. On September 30, 1996, the net assets being sold amounted to £10.2 million. In the year to that date, the subsidiary's sales were £22.4 million and there was a £200,000 pre-tax loss. Concentric will receive £3.5 million on completion, £1.5 million in two instalments by March 31, 2000, and £2 million dependent on profitability.

### Tomkins widens buyback

TOMKINS, the conglomerate, is extending its buyback programme in the new year to achieve its targeted level of debt of 15 per cent of shareholders' funds. The plan will proceed in the absence of sizeable add-on acquisitions. The company also said it will give a presentation to investors in New York, in which it will reiterate its commitment to focusing on the development of a number of strategic business activities with long-term growth potential.

## Swedish state prosecutor to see Moyne over Trustor

By JON ASHWORTH

SWEDEN'S state prosecutor, Bo Skarinder, is to fly to London to question Lord Moyne about the alleged misappropriation of £49 million in funds from Trustor, the Swedish investment group of which the 67-year-old peer is chairman.

Lord Moyne, better known as Jonathan Guinness, is today expected to issue a further statement clarifying his role in the affair, which saw the funds pass through an account at Barclays Bank in London. The funds were subsequently dispersed to

various accounts around the world. Lord Moyne and his business associate Lindsay Smallbone are signatories on the Barclays account.

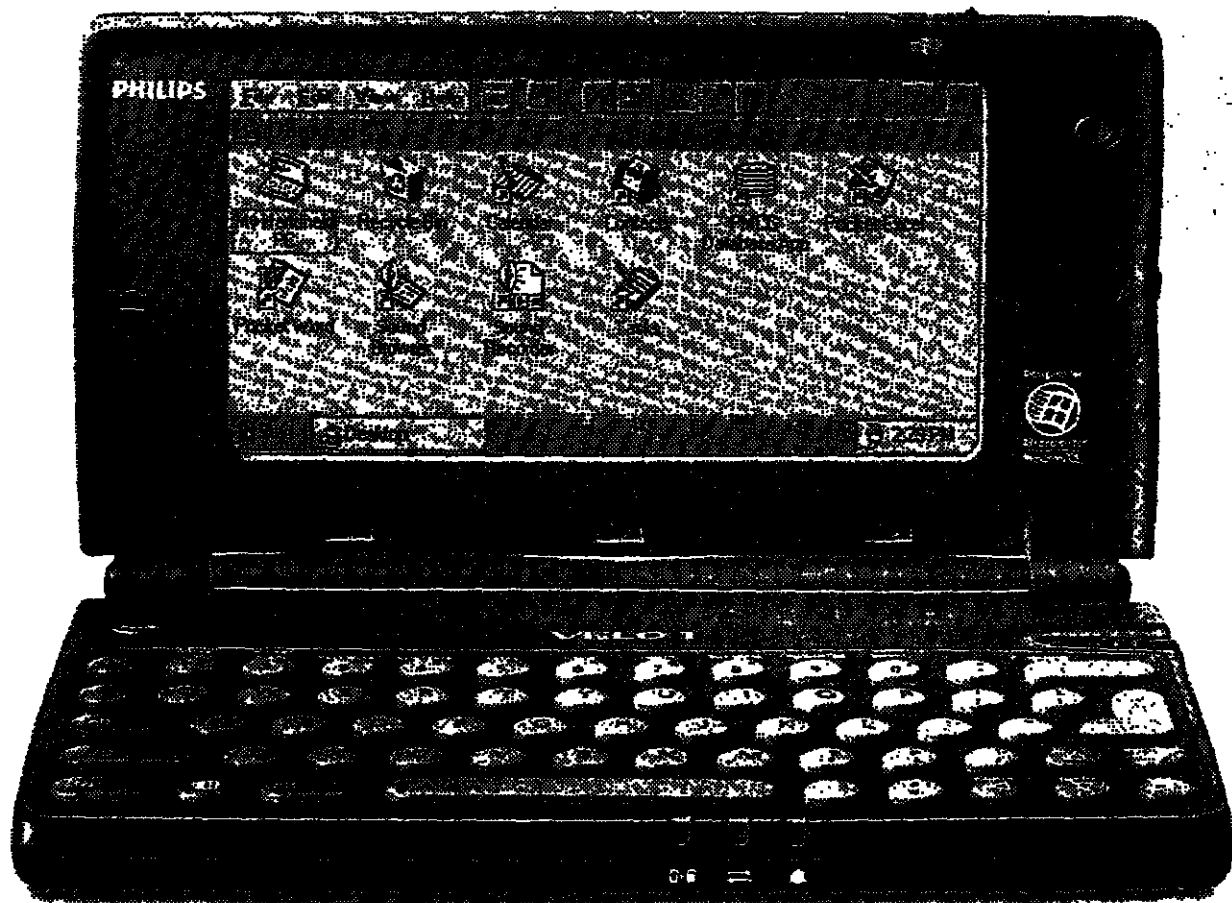
Mr Skarinder said that he hoped to interview Lord Moyne and Mr Smallbone next week. A request will be made via the Serious Fraud Office, in London, which is helping the Swedish authorities under mutual legal assistance legislation.

A spokesman for Lord Moyne yesterday said that he intended to issue a statement today. Lord Moyne has de-

nied any wrongdoing in his dealings with Trustor, but he is under pressure to clarify his role in the affair.

Lord Moyne two weeks ago announced his intention to step down as chairman of Trustor, saying that he had been let down by his Swedish associates.

Yesterday, he was quoted in a newspaper as saying: "I do believe there were irregularities, but I wasn't part of it." He said that he "may" have put his signature to "bits of paper", but otherwise declined to elaborate on his role.



(ACTUAL SIZE)

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-Byte, 4/97, P. Wayner

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-Fortune, 1997 Technology Buyers Guide

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-PC World, 3/97, Y. Arar

"Best HPC device."

-CNET, 1997

(ACTUAL QUOTES)

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# MAM goes the American way



COMMENTARY  
by our City Editor

Sir Rocco Forte and his family will probably not be sending a message of congratulations to Carol Galley and her colleagues on their enriching deal with Merrill Lynch. But the hoteliers would certainly testify to the immense power and influence that Merrill is acquiring with its takeover of Mercury Asset Management.

Such things do not come cheap, hence Merrill's readiness to pay a 30 per cent premium to the Mercury share price with barely a quibble.

The deal is one of those dreams which appears to deliver to both sides almost exactly what they want. Since its divorce from Warburg, MAM has scoured the United States for a suitable partner to give it global status and simultaneously Merrill has been seeking to bolster its asset management business, which barely registers in the UK.

London's finance firms are falling into foreign hands at such a formidable rate that it is surprising that the British National Party has not staged a demonstration. Perhaps it has failed to notice the changing ownership of the Square Mile. But yesterday's deal does, with the signature on a single £3.1 billion cheque, put ultimate control of a hefty slice of the British stock market into the ultimate control of the US business which continues to rejoice in its thundering herd reputation.

After the Prudential, MAM is

probably the largest investor in the UK market, with a total holding of around 5 per cent. Its tendency to take big positions in its chosen companies magnifies its effect, as Sir Rocco found out. He is now busy building a new hotel empire after Ms Galley and her colleagues were instrumental in delivering his old one to jolly Gerry Robinson at Granada.

There is no reason to suspect that the MAM investment approach will change under new ownership, but there is the prospect that MAM, with Merrill's backing, will have even greater influence.

Although it might not be wise to mention it in Sir Rocco's earshot, the record indicates that the MAM team will use its power wisely. The performance tables show an extraordinarily consistent pattern of out performance by the Mercury funds. It is only because of its reputation for being up near the top of the tree that the ship up with the pooled pension fund has occasioned such comment. Whereas FDFM continues to proclaim that its strategy is right and the market is wrong, MAM's bosses have been quick to acknowledge the error and have changed course.

Merrill's enthusiasm for

MAM clearly goes beyond the bottom line. Three of the MAM team will join the main executive board in New York. That is a move which should give some comfort to the nationalist tendency who see foreigners taking over the City. Carol Galley, Stephen Zimmerman and Hugh Stephenson will be unlikely to let the American voices in the Merrill boardroom drown out their own views on how the business should be developed.

## Duty calls for Lord Sterling

Lord Sterling was cock-a-hoop as the green light shone for P&O Ferries to combine its cross-Channel operations with Stena. After waiting more than a year for the competition authorities in Brussels and the UK to reach a decision, their pronouncement was more generous than even he might have

expected. So the downwards reaction of the P&O share price seemed churlish in the extreme.

Commissioner Karel van Miert appears to have ensured that sense prevailed, although the Director-General of the Office of Fair Trading, John Bridgeman, had indicated a wish to stop the merger, or hamper it with unwieldy, and perhaps unworkable, restrictions. There may be a cheerful message to be gleaned from the fact that the President of the Board of Trade, Margaret Beckett, was prevailed upon to bow to Brussels rather than her natural inclinations to block it.

But establishing a workable regime for the ferry operators — and one which should allow a reasonable profit margin — is just the first stage in Lord Sterling's crusade. He can now be expected to turn his attentions to the issue of duty free sales, which the Council of Ministers has determined to abolish. In

theory, the booze cruises should come to an end in 1999. While this might improve the calibre of the company on some cross-Channel trips, it will do little for the fare structure. Cheap crossings come courtesy of substantial splashing out on whisky and fags and the scent to disguise them.

The EU thinking was that duty free was an anomaly in a single market with a harmonized tax system and it should go. But while its abolition is now scheduled, tax harmonisation remains a distant dream, which poses a new problem for those who make duty free sales, whether on the sea or in the air.

Shop staff on the P&O ferry to Bilbao could find themselves in some quandary over pricing as they sail from Portsmouth into international waters (no duty) and then into French waters (duty a la Francais) back into international waters and onto Spain, and its duties.

Tomorrow, at the European jobs summit, the Irish Prime Minister will make a plea for the abolition of duty free sales to be postponed because of the disastrous effect it could have on the estimated 140,000 people who are employed in the sector. The potential for disputes with officious customs officials should also be taken into account.

## Tales of the illogical

Even Molly, precocious star of the Safeway television commercials, might sense something amiss in yesterday's tale from the supermarket group. Sales growth has ground to a halt but, insists chief executive Colin Smith, the recently aborted merger talks with Asda were in no way influenced by this passing problem and, anyhow, Safeway's market share remains intact.

Molly could have told Mr Smith that Roald Dahl would never have risked such a story line, and the City certainly did not buy it. The booklet of fancy drawings which Safeway produced was lacking the essential illustration: three big, unfriendly

giants prepared to fight hard. Tesco seems secure as pack leader while the indications are that Sainsbury has regained its confidence and is on track to regain its position as a superior grocer. Asda has carved out its own price-conscious niche, but Safeway is struggling. It is saddled with a rump of old stores which are the wrong size and in the wrong place, and which will prove hard to ditch.

No wonder the prospect of a deal with Asda seemed attractive to Smith. But if the logic was so pressing months ago when the talks began, it is difficult to see why both companies are so adamant that the idea must now be buried. Going through the inevitable Monopolies Commission inquiry would create a degree of uncertainty for employees but yesterday's performance can hardly have left Safeway staff feeling entirely comfortable.

## Ionica's crossed line

FOUR MONTHS is a long time in the go-go world of telecoms. Witness the extraordinary saga of BT, MCI and WorldCom. But the tale of Ionica makes the battle for control of one struggling telephone operator look sane. The company was floated on optimism and a share price of 390p and crashed down to 167p last night. Customer numbers are apparently on the increase but investors may be tempted to hang up on this one.

# US banks merge in record \$16bn deal

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

FIRST UNION and CoreStates Financial, retail banks on America's East Coast, have agreed a \$16 billion (£10 billion) merger, the biggest in US banking history.

CoreStates earlier turned down an \$18 billion offer from Mellon Bank, another East Coast retail bank, because of a failure to agree who would lead the combined group.

The First Union merger tops the recent \$15.5 billion merger of NationsBank and Barnett Bank. Analysts expect the merger wave to accelerate, creating a few leading retail banks who dominate their geographic area.

Harold Schroeder, analyst at Keefe Bruyette & Woods, said: "Size matters. The handwriting is certainly on the wall for more consolidation. It's

going to be very difficult for other banks to compete with these larger banks."

The American banking system is highly fragmented for historical reasons. The Glass-Steagall Act of 1934 divorced retail banking from investment banking in the aftermath of the 1929 Wall Street crash and the Depression. Banking groups such as JP Morgan subsequently concentrated on high-margin investment banking, leaving retail banking to provincial bankers.

Until recently, regulators also restricted banks to state-wide activity, mirroring the system of powerful state reserve banks. Acquisition-hungry retail banks are now buying or merging with direct competitors after a relaxation of banking regulations. However, their strategies still assume that the creation of new nationwide retail banks remains very difficult.

Citibank and Chase Manhattan, the only two retail banks with a well-developed national network, are currently concentrating on their investment banking arms.

After the easing of Glass-Steagall rules, retail banks and insurance companies are free to buy investment banks but not vice versa. This rule change made possible the recent \$9 billion acquisition of Salomon Brothers, the Wall Street house, by Travelers Group, the insurance company. Analysts expect that First Union's next move after the merger could be a Wall Street acquisition.

First Union-CoreStates will have a strong presence on the Atlantic coast from Florida to New England, with 2,700 branches. They will form the sixth-largest retail bank in America with \$200 billion in assets. First Union currently has \$140 billion in assets and is in the process of acquiring Signet Banking from Virginia.

## Fidelity to merge UK subsidiaries

FIDELITY, the US fund management group, has announced that it is merging its troubled UK brokerage company with Fidelity Investments, its other UK subsidiary, as part of a renewed assault on the European market (Gavin Lumsden writes).

Barry Bateman, president of Fidelity International, which incorporates the Investments division, has been appointed chairman of Fidelity Brokerage Services (FBS). Giles Varley, the former Stock Exchange director, remains FBS president but will report to Mr Bateman. FBS was fined £200,000 by the Securities and Futures Authority in May after administrative failures.



Alan Wiseman, chairman, has seen Robert Wiseman Dairies increase its interim pre-tax profits by 41.5 per cent, to £8.65 million

# Wiseman shrugs off milk competition

BY PAUL DURMAN

ROBERT WISEMAN Dairies has shrugged off tough competition in supplying milk to supermarkets and has lifted sales and operating profits by 38 per cent.

Although Unigate and

Northern Foods have this week benchmarked the low profitability of supermarket sales, Wiseman is making an operating margin of 7 per cent, in spite of 74 per cent of its sales being to multiples. Alan Wiseman, chairman, said that this was "a realistic return for our

investment". Mr Wiseman said that his company's new dairy in Manchester, which produces 175 million litres of milk a year, was taking customers from Northern Foods. By April, Wiseman will have invested £50 million in two years, paying particular atten-

tion, when designing processing systems, to the trolleys that supermarkets use to transport milk.

Pre-tax profits in the half year to September 27 rose 41.5 per cent to £8.65 million, on sales of £125.2 million. The Scottish Pride business, which Wise-

man bought from receivers for £4.5 million in March, contributed 25 million litres of the first half output of 285 million litres of milk.

Earnings rose 34 per cent, to 7.32p. A 1.32p interim dividend, up 15 per cent, is due on February 19.

## Land Securities hit by decline in sales

BY MARTIN BARROW

PROFITS at Land Securities, Britain's biggest property company, slipped in the first half after a downturn in property sales. The company also said that rental growth had not been evident in all sectors, prompting a rebalancing of its property portfolio.

Pre-tax profits fell to £124.7 million from £128.9 million in the six months to September 30, with net rental income little changed at £205.5 million (£201.1 million). Sir Peter Hunt, chairman and managing director, said the company had seen good levels of lettings in retail warehousing, shop-

ping centres, certain high streets and central London shops and offices.

Sale proceeds of £195.5 million were marginally below book value. The two major sales completed during the period were Sanctuary Buildings in Victoria, central London, which houses the Department of Education and Employment and is believed to have fetched £110 million, and Princes Quay shopping centre in Leeds.

Earnings fell to 17.27p a share (18.44p). The interim dividend is lifted to 7.60p a share from 7.35p.

## Metal price fears knock Rio Tinto

SHARES in Rio Tinto, the UK mining group, fell to their lowest level in almost three years on growing concerns about base metal prices.

The shares, worth £11.09 in June, fell 20p to 720p yesterday, their lowest level since February 1995. Analysts attributed the reversal to worries about global base metal prices after a downturn in Asian economies.

Yesterday the World Gold Council said third-quarter gold demand in South East Asia was less than half the level in 1996. Thailand sold more gold than it acquired and gold prices are close to a 13-year low.

## Change in fashion knocks Courtaulds

BY CARL MORTISHED

COURTAULDS, the chemicals group which makes Tencel, the new fibre, suffered a setback as fashion trends turned against denim. Some 80 per cent of the cellulose-based product was being sold into the denim market but poor demand, a weak Japanese market and stockpiling last year left Courtaulds with too much Tencel in the pipeline.

Group pre-tax profits fell from £65 million to £62 million in the half year to September, hit by the strength of the pound. Courtaulds lost £5 million from translating over-

seas earnings but a £10 million setback was because of transactions, mainly as a result of selling fibres and chemicals made in the UK to overseas customers.

Gordon Campbell, chief executive, said long-term plans for Tencel would not be impaired as the company was reducing the dependence on denim which was now down to 60 per cent.

Earnings per share rose from 10.7p to 13.4p and the dividend is up 3 per cent to 4.6p.

## Generator plans £1bn overseas expansion

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY  
INDUSTRIAL  
CORRESPONDENT

NATIONAL POWER, the country's largest generator, could spend more than £1 billion on international expansion by the end of the century as its home market contracts. The generator has already invested £1 billion overseas but yesterday said it plans more spending as international business starts to deliver profits.

Keith Henry, chief executive, said the company would continue buying overseas assets at the rate of £300 million a year. National Power's domestic business is suffering from a declining market share triggered by the forced sale of power stations to The Energy Group and by a growing number of competitors.

National Power's share of the domestic electricity market fell from 27 per cent to 22 per cent in the six months to September 30.

The generator dealt another blow to RJB Mining when Mr Henry said that he saw no prospect of Government assistance for the coal industry, nor state support for the development of clean-coal technology. Mr Henry is involved in tough negotiations with RJB on new coal contracts.

National Power's pre-tax profits for the half year were broadly flat at £254 million, against £251 million. Profits from overseas activities more than tripled to £67 million. The interim dividend, payable January 6, rises 50 per cent to 9p.

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# Time for a long-term strategy to emerge

Government talks with unions and employers are key to a coherent economic policy, says John Grieve Smith

Tony Blair has likened the government of the UK to running a company. The analogy can be misleading but is highly relevant in one respect. The day-to-day management of the UK economy needs to be guided by a longer-term strategy that sets out the Government's economic objectives and the policies to achieve them. Formulating a strategy can reveal embarrassing contradictions in different areas of policy; but the resolution of these is a major reason for the exercise. At present, economic policy is made up of sometimes conflicting initiatives, without any apparent overall strategy.

A key government objective is to tackle unemployment. But there is an obvious inconsistency here between their supply and demand side policies. On the one hand, they have emphasised the importance of supply side measures, such as education and training, or Welfare to Work, to get people

into work. On the other, they have adopted a more restrictive approach to demand management than their predecessors, which will limit the demand for labour. They have given the Bank of England independence to determine interest rates, guided only by an inflation target, with no mention of an output or unemployment objective. This is bound to set a bias towards a high interest rate, and hence exchange rate, regime. And there are certainly no signs of any compensatory loosening of fiscal policy. Both the Bank and the Treasury are concerned that unemployment should not fall any lower for fear of setting up inflationary wage pressures.

What then is the Government hoping to achieve from its Welfare to Work measures? We are in

danger of repeating the US pattern of churning people into and out of low-paid jobs. How does that fit in with a minimum wage? The Prime Minister extols the virtues of flexible labour markets, but at the same time emphasises the need for more education and training. But the major incubus on producing more skilled workers has been the high level of unemployment and the growth of the "hire and fire" mentality. Development of a skilled labour force depends on a strong enough demand for labour and sufficient stability of employment to give

companies the incentive to invest in training their workforce. The Chancellor repeatedly emphasises the importance of investment. Investment in new capacity, however, depends on the outlook for sales both at home and abroad. At the moment the Government's macroeconomic policy stance suggests that business should be cautious about the future growth of home demand. As far as exports are concerned, the overvaluation of sterling and the danger that this will continue is deterring British or foreign firms from investing in extra

capacity in the UK for export markets. Indeed the current issue in many firms is whether to close export capacity. There is little point in the Government exhorting firms to "prepare" for the entry to EMU when no one has any idea whether we might go in at DM2.95 or DM2.25 to the pound. For industry the really important "preparation" is concerned with planning sales and investment. A high interest rate/exchange rate policy for the next few years is totally at odds with any industrially successful entry to EMU. The main objective of economic

strategy should be to combine a steady growth of home and export demand with the necessary supply side measures to encourage investment in new capacity and increase the skilled labour force. Whatever the formal division of responsibilities, monetary and fiscal policy need to be viewed together to achieve this aim. A strategy to reduce unemployment without inflation must also consider the need for pay restraint in the private sector, alongside public sector pay policy and the minimum wage.

Formulating a more coherent economic strategy is not just a question of the policies themselves, but also people's reactions to them. Will firms step up their investment and training? Will unions moderate their pay de-

mands? There is a need for systematic discussion and consultation with employers' organisations and trade unions in formulating policy — not just selling them policies once these have been determined. It is difficult to see why such consultation should apparently be regarded as outmoded. Piecemeal consultation with particular interest groups and selected individuals is much more likely to lead to favouritism or corruption than open and regular consultation with representative bodies. The Budget Green Paper may not be an appropriate vehicle for discussing the full range of economic policy, but an announcement that the Government is setting up the machinery to discuss and formulate a general strategy with employers and unions would be a valuable step forward.

John Grieve Smith is author of *Full Employment: A Pledge Betrayed* (Macmillan 1997).

## Predators eye UK's remaining independent fund managers

European asset management is set to boom, say Richard Miles and Jon Ashworth

When Mercury Asset Management announced its interim results on November 6, Hugh Stevenson, the chairman, gave no hint of the momentous deal that was in the offing. Yet we now know that he had already begun detailed negotiations with Merrill Lynch, one of Wall Street's biggest banks.

Indeed, yesterday's disclosure of Merrill Lynch's friendly £3.1 billion offer for MAM took everyone by surprise. In spite of more than two years of speculation over the future of the UK's leading fund manager, dealers did not even get a whiff of the acquisition. City analysts were said to be so stunned that they posed not a single question to the management of the two companies when formally told of the deal yesterday morning.

From MAM's point of view, this appears to be an outstanding deal. Coming at a time when the one-time darling of the City was starting to look a bit tarnished — the performance of its main pooled pension fund has been heavily criticised in recent months — an acquisition price that equates to a 32 per cent premium on Tuesday's closing share price must seem like manna from heaven. And amid accelerating consolidation in financial services, the deal comes with no redundancies and a pledge from Merrill Lynch that MAM will be allowed to keep its independence when making investment decisions, and its own name in the UK. This attitude is in marked contrast to Merrill's 1995 takeover of Smith New Court, the UK stockbroker, when it dropped the old English name, much to the consternation of some City old-timers.

Quite whether the deal is such good value for Merrill Lynch remains a moot point.



Stephen Zimmerman, left, Carol Galley and Hugh Stevenson, the trio who run MAM, have taken the City by surprise

Many City analysts believe that the price is excessive, particularly when the world's stock markets are going through a patch of distinct volatility. Only two or three weeks ago, David Komansky, chairman and chief executive of Merrill Lynch, gave warning that the markets had much further to fall, perhaps up to 15 per cent.

On a funds basis, the picture is more positive. Merrill Lynch is paying a price equivalent to 3 per cent of the funds under management, compared unfavourably to the 1.9 per cent that NatWest paid for Gartmore, though it looks good against the 4.2 per cent that Commerzbank paid for Jupiter Tyndall. Dealers speculated last night that NatWest may now have off Gartmore to unlock some of the hidden value in the fund manager.

"Merrill Lynch faces a tall order," said Robin Down, a financial analyst at ABN Amro Hoare Govett. According to Mr Down, the terms of the deal mean a 4 per cent return on equity for the US invest-

ment bank, against a target of 9 or 10 per cent. "That means MAM has to double funds under management, or double its profitability," he said.

Merrill Lynch argues, however, that the whole deal will add up to more than the sum of the parts. The combined strengths of the two — Merrill's capital and distribution network, MAM's investment management track

### MAM has to double funds under management or double profitability

record and client base — should boost annual growth. In one bound, Merrill Lynch has leapt to become the third-biggest asset manager in the world with combined assets of \$450 billion (£266 billion), behind Fidelity and Axa.

Asset management is particularly attractive to Merrill Lynch for two principal reasons. First, the stability of recurring fee income offsets the volatility in revenues from

investment banking. Second, asset management will be the growth sector in Europe over the next decade as governments withdraw welfare benefits and individuals are forced to provide for their own retirement.

Inevitably, the City's eyes will now focus on the UK fund managers that have hung on to their independence: Schroders, M&G, Perpetual and a

years ago, Morgan Stanley attempted, unsuccessfully, to acquire SG Warburg when the UK bank still owned MAM. Even with its recently announced \$21 billion merger with Dean Witter, Morgan Stanley is said to be still interested in expanding its European asset management business. Closer to home, Halifax and Barclays have both made no secret of their desire to acquire a fund manager.

Rival UK fund management groups were treating a cautious line yesterday. M&G, Britain's oldest unit trust manager, with more than 750,000 customers and £18 billion under management, was saying little ahead of the publication of its full-year results next Thursday. The group said it would not be appropriate to comment on market developments ahead of the results, although it would be talking about its place in the industry when the numbers come out.

Once the giant of the unit trust and PEP industry, M&G has been hit by a run of poor

performance, which has provoked an exodus of private investors. It recently unveiled a planned shake-up of its range of funds, merging some, and changing the names of others, in the hope of putting things back on track. In the meantime, it is perceived as vulnerable.

Perpetual, the UK's largest provider of PEPs, expressed concern this week about the Government's tinkering with private savings, and the proposed individual savings account (ISA) in particular. It was quoted as saying that a negative enough scenario could even push it into a merger, although this line was moderated yesterday. What the group meant to say was that it would be considering a range of options, of which a merger would be the definite last resort.

Perpetual thinks that the MAM-Merrill tie-up will inevitably lead to greater pressure for consolidation in the UK fund management industry — in the same way that merger mania has broken out among the Big Six accounting firms.

Comparisons can be drawn with America, where a larger market share is being divided between a smaller number of product providers. A spokesman said: "You've got to be big to play big."

In the UK, the market in PEPs and pensions is dominated by perhaps no more than six players on either side — mimicking the trend in America over the past ten years.

Pressure for further consolidation must intensify. Perpetual saw funds under management rise 33 per cent to £8 billion in the year to September 30, although net new business was £300 million down on last year, pointing to the underlying competitive pressures facing the industry.

## Travel agents in dogfight with cut-price BA

Anyone passing through Ears Court in London this week would have wondered whether they were hallucinating. Exotic costumes, funny hats and fashionable clouds of smog — all part of the fun at that annual travel industry shindig, World Travel Market (WTM).

More than 10,000 senior travel industry representatives attended the first two days of WTM, a 76 per cent increase on last year. Some 5,000 exhibitors from 158 countries were eager to tout their wares, amid predictions that the travel industry is on course to create 100 million jobs across the globe in the next ten years.

The buoyant mood was captured yesterday at the Singapore stand, where Yeo Khue Leng, chief executive-elect of the newly renamed Singapore Tourism Board, unveiled the latest visitor arrival numbers from the UK — up 12 per cent in the first nine months of the year. The Singapore dollar is cheaper than it was. Even the smog has cleared.

Neighbouring stands, including Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia, were happily dispensing bonhomie and brochures — trying to forget the damage inflicted by a disastrous combination of bush fires and tumbling currencies. Cheap baht and ringgits mean good deals for British travellers, but have done nothing for marketing budgets.

But the lasting topic of conversation was not the tragic events in Luxor, nor Stena and P&O, but this week's all-out assault by British Airways on UK travel agents. On what the industry is calling BA's "Black Monday", it emerged that BA was setting up a low-cost carrier out of Stansted, selling direct to the public and cutting travel agents out of the loop. All but missed in the

confusion was a press release headlined: "New Reward Scheme For Travel Agents". Buried inside was the news that BA is to cut commission on international tickets sold by travel agents in the UK to 7 per cent — down from 9 per cent on international flights and 7.5 per cent on domestic flights.

Action in America is even more drastic. Travel agents selling Concorde and First Class see their commission halved from 10 per cent to 5 per cent. On Club, the rate falls from 10 per cent to 7 per cent. Agents who sell tickets in sufficient quantities could end up better off under the new BA reward scheme, but the news has gone down like the proverbial lead balloon.

Competitors continued to react with fury yesterday to BA's entry into the low-cost market, with EasyJet taking damning full-page advertisements in the national press. The carrier said BA's Operation Blue Sky had the appearance of "a textbook case of abuse of dominant position", and called on the European Commission to take action.

Reaction among travel agents to the cut in commission was even more hostile. The Association of British Travel Agencies (ABTA) said BA risked alienating its distribution network. Clive Green, an independent agent in southwest London, said the move was "another nail in the coffin" for travel agents.

BA says commission rates have remained the same for 20 years, but agents are unimpressed. There is a risk that many will drop BA in favour of more lucrative competitors, inflicting further long-term financial damage. BA's shares slid 8p to 535p yesterday, well off their peak of 760p in May.

JON ASHWORTH

## Lyons roar

WHEN Howard Hodgson, one-time undertaker superstar, was turfed out of Ronson, the lighter people, this summer, much was made of Albion, a 17 per cent shareholder that seems to be pulling many of the strings there. Ronson is now in bid talks with unnamed parties, even if the share price is sinking fast. Company sources say they see no sign of the familiar Hodgson dorsal fin in the water.

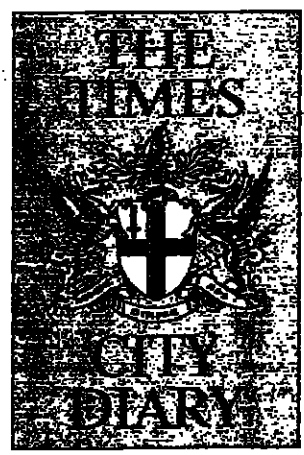
But who is behind Albion, which has a director on the Ronson board? None other, it seems, than Jack Lyons, the

disgraced financier, and his son Jonathon. Lyons père, Sir Jack until the Guinness affair, is about to receive his second 15 minutes of fame when the Guinness report finally appears next week.

In July Albion refused a 26p-a-share offer for its stake from Hodgson. The shares are now 12p. Funny coincidence the first chairman of Ronson, Shaun Dowling, used to work for Guinness and crossed swords with Lyons then. If no offer for the company at this price emerges, and I would advise shareholders not to hold their breath, Albion always has the option of mounting a bid itself at an even lower price, which would not please those institutions who have loyally stuck with the group.

Funny coincidence the second: you would have thought, given who else fell from grace during the Guinness affair, that Lyons would have learned to avoid anything to do with the name Ronson.

HORROR of horrors for Newcastle United. The future of the club is in the hands of its worst enemy. Now that "The Toon", as I understand they call it, is having to change the plans for its new



football stadium, expanding the old one instead of building a new one on a park in the middle of Newcastle, it needs to persuade the city council which approved the old scheme to allow the new one.

But because of laws on conflicts of interest, no councillor who owns Newcastle shares or a season ticket can vote. So the key council meeting will be chaired by the deputy leader, Don Price, who is a Sunderland fan. As, strangely enough, is Sir Terence Harrison, Newcastle's chairman.

### In memory

THE memorial service for Pat O'Reilly, a mainstay of Charterhouse Tynes and before that Panmure Gordon,

whose untimely death occurred this summer, is at St Etheldreda's at Ely Place, ECI, at 11.15am on December 5. Two of the three readers at the service are, appropriately, drawn from Pat's life at the centre of the Yorkshire business community. Alan Bottomley is a retired partner of solicitors Hammond Suddards and on the boards of a number of companies Pat took public. David Rhodes is chairman of Filtronic Connect, one of Pat's companies. The third is his old colleague at Panmure, Lord McGowan. Anyone who wants to attend, contact Lorraine Woodley at Charterhouse.

THEN there was one... The National Grid's three-strong fleet of helicopters used to inspect the nation's power lines has suffered a couple of unfortunate incidents. In September, one clipped one of the Grid's own lines in North Wales. Bang. Last week, her sister craft had her cockpit bashed in when a refuelling bowser broke free. Crash. A close eye is now being kept on the third in the brood, still flying last time I checked.

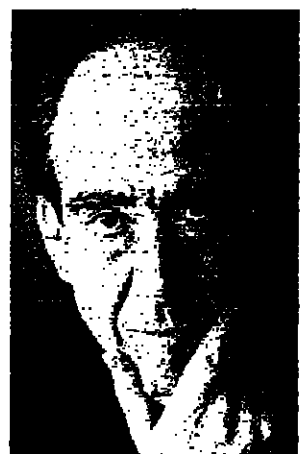
### Checking out

SCARCELY has the paint dried on the £40 million facelift at Claridge's than I hear that François Touzin, the general manager, is on his way. Ra-

món Pajares, Savoy Group managing director, has finally cleared the decks of all the hotel general managers he inherited when he was appointed at the end of 1994. Touzin is leaving to do a computer course at Harvard University. He says the parting was amicable and he plans to re-emerge in due course in the hotel business. "I have completed the restoration of the hotel, which took three years of hard work."

I hear a funny story about Touzin. Shortly after joining Claridge's, he missed a visit to the hotel by the King of Spain. A faux pas at the best of times, especially if your boss was born in Barcelona.

MARTIN WALLER



Ramón Pajares has lost another Savoy Group general manager

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MANCHESTER BUSINESS SCHOOL



## Power firms face bill for £115m

BY GAVIN LUMSDEN

ELECTRICITY companies have been landed a £115 million bill after discovering they are in breach of pension legislation introduced in the spring. Coopers & Lybrand, auditors to the £15.5 billion Electricity Supply Pension Scheme (ESPS), have had to qualify the annual report while urgent meetings are held between the employers and trustees.

The revelation is the latest step in the ongoing dispute over the power companies' use of £1.2 billion pension surpluses to fund redundancy programmes and payment holidays. Earlier this summer National Grid and National Power won an appeal to the High Court overturning rulings by the Pensions Ombudsman that they had broken scheme rules. Despite this victory they were told they should have sought trustees' approval for delaying so-called "deficiency" payments which compensate schemes for contributions lost from workers who have been forced to take early retirement.

After seeking legal advice employers and trustees have also been told that the outstanding contributions are deemed to be employer-related loans and break the 1995 Pensions Act. This was drawn up in response to the Robert Maxwell scandal and is designed to prevent employers appropriating pensioners' assets for their businesses.

Under the Act's "whistle-blowing" rules the ESPS has reported the infringement to the Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority, although it insisted the breach was unintentional and technical.

Meanwhile, David Laws, a former engineer who took National Grid to the Ombudsman, is to appeal against the High Court verdict. He hopes the latest development will force the company to fund his legal action.



Alan Petersen, chief operating officer at Meyer, welcoming the improved margins at Jewsons timber revealed in yesterday's interim results

## Windfall charge fails to shake upbeat Hyder

BY ADAM JONES

HYDER, the Welsh multi-utility company, shrugged off a £282 million windfall tax charge yesterday as it recorded a 4.6 per cent rise in interim profits and announced that 270,000 customers have already said they will take its new domestic gas service.

Pre-tax profits for the six months to September 30 rose from £100.7 million in 1996 to £105.4 million. Turnover increased from £547.7 million to £555.2 million, including the

higher than expected windfall tax charge, which is being funded by extra borrowings. Hyder made a post-tax loss of £190 million. Gearing now stands at 139 per cent and is expected to increase to more than 200 per cent next year before stabilising.

Hyder's interest cover of 3.5 comforted investors, however, and the shares were trading at 919½p in late afternoon yesterday, up 2p. Sentiment was also buoyed by advance de-

mand for its domestic gas service. Hyder said that customers were informally agreeing to take the service at a rate of 2,500 a day, with supply beginning next April.

The lion's share of the pre-tax profits came from water supply and sewerage, which contributed £87.1 million. The company expects to meet new targets on reducing leakage for the current year. Graham Hawker, chief ex-

ecutive, said that Hyder is emerging as the only true "multi-utility", providing customers in one area with electricity, gas and water with the associated benefits of scale and geographical focus. Other combined utility companies have less geographical overlap.

A management restructuring announced at the start of October will save an extra £15 million a year by March 31, 2001. It involves combining the day-to-day administration of water, electricity and gas supply.

A provision against a restructuring charge of £35 million to £40 million will be taken by the company at the end of the year. Capital investment increased from £186 million in the first half of 1996 to £190 million.

Analysts expect Hyder to spend between £30 million and £50 million a year beefing up its infrastructure division, which is being expanded as a source of non-regulated income. Profits rose in this division from £3.3 million to £12.6 million.

## Meyer lifts half-time performance

BY ADAM JONES

MEYER International reported a 29 per cent rise in interim profits yesterday and said margins at its Jewson builders' merchants chain are close to their 7 per cent target.

In the six months to the end of September, pre-tax profits were £26.2 million, up from £20.3 million. Turnover fell 3 per cent to £382.3 million for the latest first half.

The strong property-related recovery in London and South East England is not yet mirrored in the rest of Britain, said Tony Palmer, chairman of Meyer. Margins at Jewson increased to an average of 6.1 per cent after focusing on activities such as tool hire. They nudged 7 per cent at times and Alan Peterson, chief operating officer, said he would be disappointed if this could not be sustained.

The timber products division will continue to be affected by weak softwood prices. Meyer also announced that it is selling Bouwvaria, a Dutch DIY chain, for about £4.9 million to Formido Bouwmarkten of The Netherlands. Its £318 million purchase of Harcross, a Jewsons rival, should be completed on December 1.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### EU approval for Railfreight aid

THE European Commission cleared £247.2 million in subsidies paid to Railfreight Distribution, a subsidiary of British Rail that was sold to English, Welsh and Scottish Railway. Railfreight operates international freight services via the Channel Tunnel in co-operation with SNCF, the French state-owned railway group. The Commission said that the British aid was limited and strictly intended to restore Railfreight Distribution's long-term viability and would not unduly distort fair competition.

European Union approval was also eased by the British Government's pledge to negotiate with France access conditions to the tunnel for rival operators. Several companies have expressed an interest in operating competing services via the tunnel, and the freight industry lobbying organisation, the Rail Freight Group, has argued with the British authorities that they should get similar incentives.

### Century Inns climbs 19%

CENTURY INNS, owner of the Tap & Spile pub chain, posted a 19 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £8.5 million in the year to September 30. Turnover rose 42 per cent to £34.2 million. The company's managed estate more than tripled turnover and moved operating profits up from £250,000 to £1.43 million. Earnings per share came in at 15.1p (13.3p) and a final dividend of 5.1p, payable on February 19, makes 7.4p (6.64p).

### European Colour up

EUROPEAN COLOUR, the manufacturer of chemical colours and specialist coatings, yesterday said that the strength of sterling held back progress in the first half. The company reported a rise in pre-tax profits to £1.79 million (£1.48 million) in the six months to September 30 on sales that improved to £14.06 million (£10.25 million). Earnings per share rose to 2.46p (2.41p). The interim dividend is lifted to 0.865p (0.825p).

### Jarvis Porter ahead

JARVIS PORTER GROUP, the international label and packaging manufacturer, lifted pre-tax profits to £7 million from £6.1 million in the half year to August 31. Comparable figures for the previous year included a £1 million reorganisation charge. Latest results include a maiden contribution from Industrial Print Group, acquired in June. Adjusted earnings per share rose to 10p from 8.6p. The interim dividend is increased to 2.5p a share from 2.35p.

### Heiton raises \$25m

HEITON HOLDINGS has raised \$25 million (£15.1 million) in America in its first private placement of senior notes. The deal is designed to refinance the group's existing debt portfolio and provide funding for future acquisitions, it said. The portfolio's overall maturity is ten years, with the average maturity of individual instruments placed in the deal at eight years. The interest rate has been fixed at 7.14 per cent. The dollar funds have been swapped into punts to eliminate currency exposure.

### Bemac jobs boost

AN engineering company in Northern Ireland is to create up to 200 jobs after signing a deal with an American electronics firm. Bemac Engineering, of Lisburn, Co Antrim, will be the centre of European operations for Electronic Manufacturing Systems, of Colorado. Bemac provides and distributes integrated electronic assemblies in high-quality metal fabrications. Michael Best, Bemac's managing director, said the deal was "a major vote of confidence in the company".

## Texas Instruments expands

FROM A CORRESPONDENT

TEXAS Instruments Inc has agreed to buy Amati Communications Corp for \$395 million (£233 million) in cash, scuttling an earlier stock merger deal that the maker of high-speed modems had announced last month.

Amati, based in San Jose, California, said on October 1 that it had agreed to be acquired by Westell Technologies Inc, based in Aurora, Illinois, a maker of systems for phone line connections, for about \$394 million in stock. But Texas Instruments' willingness to pay cash, and a drop in Westell's stock price, apparently made the TI offer more attractive to Amati's board of directors.

Westell will receive a \$14.8 million "break-up" fee. Texas Instruments said. With the purchase, Texas Instruments will acquire a technology that allows high-speed data to be sent over existing copper phone lines, making Internet access, high-quality video and other services more widely available.

Analysts expect Hyder to spend between £30 million and £50 million a year beefing up its infrastructure division, which is being expanded as a source of non-regulated income. Profits rose in this division from £3.3 million to £12.6 million.

## ACCOUNTANCY

## Time to tackle transfer pricing

John Newman writes an open letter to Dawn Primarolo, Financial Secretary to the Treasury

YOUR introduction to the Inland Revenue booklet on the modernisation of the transfer pricing legislation advises that transfer pricing is "one of the key international tax issues of our time". It is, indeed, but this area is too important for the mandarins at the Revenue. I wonder whether you could consider the four overriding and non-technical points in this open letter in keeping with your status in a new government charged with the task of modernising the approach to governance in the UK.

The methodology of the consultation document follows very closely that of consultative papers put forward over the past few years on international issues such as controlled foreign corporations, the treatment of offshore income under section 739, and so on.

In your introduction (and in paragraph 2.11) the statement is made that the UK's 50-year-old legislation "has generally served its purpose well". However, the paper gives no consideration as to whether there is, or has been, loss of revenue because of the scope and nature of the UK's inter-company pricing legislation, nor whether the inter-company pricing legislation has actually

harmled the economic development of the UK.

Similarly, the consultative document gives neither figures nor consideration to:

- The number of cases taken each year on inter-company pricing grounds.
- The amount of alleged under-declaring assessed each year.
- The amounts actually collected after the assessments.
- The average time schedule for settlements.
- The amounts that overseas revenue authorities have tried to assess on UK residents.
- The amounts involved in corresponding adjustments on settlement of international disputes.
- The number of cases dealt with by overseas authorities.
- The number of cases dealt with under advance pricing arrangements.

Those of us in the pricing profession do not have the sort of statistical evidence on which consultation leading to legislation should be based. All we know are the results of the inquiries we are involved in. The Government, through the Revenue, is the only organisation with the total picture.

The fiscal climate of the European Union is one of fiscal competition. To an ex-



John Newman says legislation need not be too rigorous

tent the Inland Revenue's participation in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) may therefore be misconceived; and its leadership role in the discussions and drafting sessions in Paris not in the UK's best interests.

The Inland Revenue should

be reminded that to exploit the UK's position as having one of the lowest rates of corporate taxation in Europe and the world means that inter-company pricing legislation does not have to be too rigorous. Otherwise there is a danger that the legislation will drive away business and make in-

bound investments unattractive.

The last area I wish to draw your attention to is perhaps the most important. The Inland Revenue paper is written in the context of readily understandable transfer of goods; accordingly price adjustments occur in the context of an economy engaged in manufacturing or extraction industries.

However, the dynamic international environment is developing fastest within service industries, whereas the trade in goods, because of industry consolidation and lower transportation costs, seems to imply declining pricing. In a transfer pricing context I believe the focus should be on services and the UK should reconsider.

To illustrate the problems take two examples; first, the cost to the UK for licence fees for software products, and secondly the cost of CDs and videos. The question has to be asked as to the criteria for the true evaluation of an arm's-length price for such products: is this worthwhile and is the OECD the forum for consideration of this matter? Should we necessarily follow the US in its approach? I am afraid that in its desire to co-operate with other fiscal bodies the Inland Revenue is missing the reality of the UK economy as it moves towards the new millennium.

The author is a corporate and international tax partner with Smith & Williamson.

## Tinkering with tax base a lost cause

NEXT WEEK we shall see the Chancellor of the Exchequer doubtless being portrayed as having a radical tinker with some taxes in the "Green Budget". What he is unlikely to address is the much larger question — the vanishing tax base.

It is all very well shifting the emphasis on taxes like capital gains tax and inheritance tax, which can only raise a small amount of revenue and really only exist for political reasons. But a vast amount of revenue is vanishing, or shifting tax regimes, for much more hard-headed reasons. And that is what the tax authorities really have to face up to.

A good place to start would have been last week's Hardman memorial lecture run by the tax faculty of the English ICA. There, Stephen Dale, a Price Waterhouse partner based in Paris and specialising in taxation, took apart many of the easy assumptions that underlie a tax system. He looked in particular at VAT across Europe and concluded that the arguments over fiscal sovereignty were, if not nonsense, then certainly impractical. Governments should give up worrying about sovereignty because it was not going to make any difference. They no longer control the tax systems regardless of sovereignty. There is an inevitability about it: it is a simple response to tax competition. Indirect taxes must be harmonised if you want a reasonably free market. Anyone can see this. All they have to do is visit Dover and Calais. The trade in cheaper booze being brought across to this country is now at an amazing level. And the reason for it is simply tax competition. In a free market this will always be so.

There is nothing a Chancellor can do, in a free society, if the citizens of Kent choose to pay lower French taxes on their drink rather than the much higher British rates. Dale's thesis was that this trend will intensify, particularly with a common currency. "Once prices are quoted in the same currency the price differentials of all products will become more transparent," he said. He gave an example — cars are much cheaper in Denmark than in France. But at the moment, for the French to buy cars there means fiddling about in Danish crowns and exchange rate differences. Once everything is priced in Euros this will change. And the French exchequer would be the loser. Once back in France the car buyer will only pay

VAT on the lower price paid in Denmark and not the high price prevailing in France. The same would happen in the UK. A VW Polo, Dale pointed out, costs about 50 per cent less in Portugal than the UK. If cars in the UK market currently cost twice as much in London than in Glasgow, no one would buy cars in London. It will be the same argument, only Europe-wide.

Changes are already occurring. One tax adviser talked about how he is dealing with a flood of French businessmen wanting to be resident in the UK where the direct tax regime is more benign. Tax-shopping because of direct tax rates has always happened. But with greater wealth and global businesses people are more mobile.

The same is happening with indirect taxation. Dale's conclusion was that indirect tax rates have to be harmonised. "Should we not all be pushing for the common system, to reduce costs on business, to simplify the VAT system," he concluded. "If this means

formally conceding that member states have lost their fiscal sovereignty, which as I have tried to show is already the case, is this not a price that we must be prepared to pay to remain competitive?"

This is a world far removed from the tradition of a Chancellor sticking his tongue out on a pint and knowing what revenue it will bring in. And even this week in Finland, of all unlikely places, will make the task harder. In Turku the OECD is holding a conference on "dismantling the barriers to global electronic commerce". The aim is to forward proposals that go on to a conference at ministerial level in Ottawa next October, with the aim of

"achieving consensus among business, government and citizens". It is all likely to be harder than that. Take this comment from the background papers: "Whatever the solution adopted, the taxation of e-commerce should be relatively simple, should facilitate voluntary compliance and should not unnecessarily hinder the development of e-commerce." Hardened tax professionals growl comments at this point about pigs flying. But the tax could be simple. The world is opening up and as a result governments are losing their tax powers. "Governments," as one adviser put it, "will just have to tax wherever and whenever they can. That is what the airport tax is all about." And the taxpayers will have to be adept at using their resulting freedoms.



ROBERT BRUCE

## In search of twinkle toes

AMID the somewhat bland proposals for yet again overhauling the way the English ICA runs itself, there is one proposal which could provide great amusement. It has been decided that the current system of the President chairing the council meetings is less than properly accountable. So instead, "an impartial chairman" is to be appointed.

According to the current president, Chris Laine, the

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

idea is to have a post along the lines of the Speaker of the House of Commons. A sort of Betty Boothroyd, "he suggested. It is understood that a search is on for any council member whose career started as a dancer with shapely legs.

### Vanishing VAT

STEPHEN DALE, the Price Waterhouse partner who gave this year's Hardman memorial tax lecture, revealed some

remarkable powers of detective work.

He was talking about the huge amount of VAT fraud across the EU. Dale was called in to investigate one case involving a company exporting disk drives. Its largest UK customer was based in Liverpool and Dale spent some time, as good auditors always do, perusing the files. He looked at the company's VAT number, which looked legitimate but

seemed vaguely familiar. Further research revealed that it was the VAT number of British Telecom. The disk drives were being "delivered" to the UK but were being sold on the French black market. No wonder France is estimated, said Dale, to lose 5 per cent of its possible VAT revenue.

### Racing certainty

THE final furlong of this week's press conference to an-

nounce reforms at the English ICA was purgatory for Dame Sheila Masters, its vigorous vice-president.

One of her racehorses, Gemma's Wager, was running in the 2.30 at Newton Abbot. "And it's got a good chance of winning", she said as she swept from the room in search of a phone after the questioning was over. Sadly for Dame Sheila it was misplaced and some nag called Luke Warm won, which might also sum up the membership's likely reaction to the reform proposals.



## FKI aims to cut gearing to enable acquisitions

BY MARTIN BARROW

FKI, the industrial products group, expects strong cash generation and the proceeds from disposals to reduce gearing below 60 per cent in the short term, leaving the company well placed to make selective acquisitions to enhance continuing operations.

The company announced that it had agreed the sale of the bulk of its automotive business to America's Trident Automotive for £92.5 million last week. FKI has switched its

focus to higher-margin businesses after the £13 million cash takeover of Bridon, the wire rope manufacturer and distributor, in August.

The financial impact of the Bridon takeover was to lift gearing to 114 per cent at the end of August before it eased slightly to 91 per cent at the end of September.

Jeff Whalley, chairman, yesterday said the selective acquisition and divestment programme had made significant progress in focusing FKI's activities in three core areas of material handling, hardware and engineering. In the first half operating cashflow increased to £93.3 million, from £61 million.

The company was announcing a rise in pre-tax profits to £64 million, from £51.4 million, for the half year to September 30, on turnover that rose to £526 million, from £459 million.

Material handling, which now encompasses the Bridon businesses, contributed operating profits of £19.3 million (£17.1 million) on turnover of £174.5 million (£130.8 million). The enlarged business will be a world leader in the manufacture of lifting equipment, with annual sales of £450 million. Mr Whalley said significant progress had already been made in the reorganisation of Bridon.

Hardware contributed profits of £30.2 million (£25.3 million last time) despite a near 4 per cent downturn in housing starts in North America, its principal market. The return on sales improved to 19.7 per cent.

The engineering division earned operating profits of £20.1 million (£6.5 million) on turnover of £207.2 million (£80.5 million). The division grew significantly in 1996 with the £182.5 million purchase of Hawker Siddeley Electric Power from BTR and the £34.8 million of Marelli Motori.

Normalised earnings increased to 8.44p a share from 6.1p. The interim dividend is lifted to 3.2p a share from 3.1p. The share price remained unchanged at 188p.



Geoffrey Tucker celebrates the acquisition at Chili's in Canary Wharf, one of the two existing locations in the UK

## Celebrated to develop US brand

CELEBRATED GROUP, the AIM-listed restaurant group, has acquired the exclusive rights to develop Chili's Grill & Bar, a successful US concept, throughout the UK (Dominic Walsh writes).

The company is to acquire Restaurant House (RH), the current franchise holder and owner of the two existing Chili's outlets in Cambridge and Canary Wharf in London. To finance the deal,

Celebrated is to issue Red Hot Concepts, RH's Nasdaq-listed parent company, with 28 million shares and an option over a further six million. This will give Red Hot Concepts more than 30 per cent of voting rights in Celebrated, subject to shareholder approval. The shares closed up 1/2p at 11 1/2p.

The Chili's brand, which has a southwestern American theme, is owned by Brinker In-

ternational, the US group that recently granted the rights to its Macaroni Grill brand to Queensborough Holdings. Under the terms of the licence from Brinker, Celebrated has undertaken to have 11 Chili's restaurants up and running by November 2000. There are currently around 500 Chili's restaurants worldwide.

Geoffrey Tucker, chief executive of Celebrated, said the deal was a "major step in ra-

tionalising the group's operations". Earlier this month it pulled out of the roadside market by selling its AJ's Family Restaurants to Granada Group for £3 million.

Separately, the group reported a first-half operating profit of £148,000 (£287,000) from turnover up from £3.69 million to £3.96 million. Earnings per share showed a loss of 0.44p (1.33p profit), and there is no dividend.

## BG signs deal to develop Russian fields

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

A CRITICAL phase in BG's multibillion-dollar oil exploration and development plans has been completed with the signing of key agreements for fields in Kazakhstan and the Caspian Sea.

The production-sharing agreements mean that BG has cleared key hurdles in its drive towards developing large oil and gasfields with international partners.

The deals, made with the Kazakh Government, open the way for the development of the giant Karachaganak field in Kazakhstan and for offshore exploration in the Caspian Sea.

The Karachaganak field is expected to yield more than 24 billion barrels of oil and BG has said that the field will deliver 25 per cent of its global production by 2002. By the millennium the field is expected to represent 10 per cent of BG's asset value outside of Transco, its UK pipeline network.

BG will work with Agip of Italy and Texaco of the US in the Karachaganak field. Lukoil of Russia is also a smaller partner in the project. In the Caspian Sea BG is working jointly with Mobil, BP/Statco, Shell, Total and Agip.

BG will invest a total of \$2 billion (£1.25 billion) in Karachaganak over its expected lifetime of 40 years. The company will pump in \$640 million (£400 million) in the

first phase of the development. David Varney, chief executive, said: "These agreements represent an important step forward for BG. The Karachaganak agreement gives BG a leading role in one of the world's largest oil and gasfields - substantially bigger than any North Sea discovery."

## Newspaper group lifts profits 38%

BUOYANT economic conditions and strong growth in recruitment advertising lifted Southnews, the publisher of local newspapers in London and the Home Counties (Frank le Duc writes).

Gareth Clark, chairman, said other categories of advertising had shown improvements, too, including motors, property and local retailing. Pre-tax profit rose 38 per cent, to £3.7 million, in the six months to September 27, from £2.68 million in the same period a year ago. Turnover grew 14 per cent to £21 million (£18.4 million).

The dividend rises to 3p (2.25p), due on January 9. Earnings rose to 15.53p a share from 11.3p.

## The South lifts Black Arrow

Black Arrow, the office furniture and leasing group, raised pre-tax profits from £1.25 million to £2 million in the half year to September 30. Earnings per share rose to 5.56p, from 3.41p, and the interim dividend rises to 1.5p (1.2p). Sales rose to £11.7 million (£9.8 million).

Arnold Edward, chairman, said: "Our first half was heavily influenced by a very strong performance in the South. I expect trading to be rather more subdued for the remainder of the year, but I am confident of reporting much improved full-year figures."

The shares fell 1p to 95 1/2p.

## Auto firm up

European Motor Holdings, the automotive distribution and services company, said that demand for new cars is expected to stay strong for the foreseeable future. In the half year to September 30, the company's motor retail division lifted operating profits by 42 per cent, to £7.1 million. Profits from the services division fell to £300,000, from £900,000. Group pre-tax profits rose by 24 per cent, to £6.2 million. Earnings per share rose 23 per cent, to 7.9p. The interim dividend rises 13 per cent, to 2.6p.

## Ferraris rises

Ferraris, the medical products and precision components group, raised pre-tax profits by 21 per cent, to £1.73 million, in the year to August 31 on sales up by 5 per cent, to £20.7 million. Earnings per share rose by 18 per cent, to 11.4p. The year's dividend rises by 14 per cent, to 3.2p, after a 2p final. Shares in Ferraris rose 3p to 119 1/2p.

## Macdonald Hotels expands cautiously

BY DOMINIC WALSH

MACDONALD HOTELS, the Scottish hotel and resort operator, has paid £1 million for Craxton Wood Hotel near Chester and is to invest another £4 million developing the property. The hotel currently has 15 bedrooms but has planning permission for a further 50 rooms plus leisure and conference facilities.

Donald Macdonald, chief executive, said that he has no plans to become involved in the industry consolidation many observers believe is inevitable, preferring to focus instead on organic growth. He said that cautious acquisitions along the

lines of the Craxton purchase would continue, provided that returns on capital of at least 20 per cent were possible. Macdonald is currently averaging 22 per cent.

In the half year to September 28 the group lifted pre-tax profits 21 per cent to £5.6 million from turnover 30 per cent up at £24.9 million.

Macdonald improved the average room rate from £42.64 to £46.15 on occupancy down one percentage point to 67 per cent. Earnings per share rose 23 per cent to 7.12p and an interim dividend of 1.65p (1.5p) will be paid on January 5.

## IMF quashes hopes for independent Asian fund

THE International Monetary Fund (IMF) has succeeded in killing off a proposal by Asia Pacific countries to set up an Asian rescue fund outside the auspices of the IMF (Abby Tan writes from Manila).

At the end of a two-day meeting, senior finance and central bank officials from 14 countries

reaffirmed the authority of the IMF to police troubled economies and agreed to its proposals for a regional surveillance mechanism.

A communiqué issued by the deputy ministers and officials from the IMF, America, Japan and 12 other Asian countries agreed to a facility for "co-operative financing arrangements".

Under IMF supervision the member countries could contribute and siphon economies could draw upon this facility "on a case by case basis" to augment a country's reserves when IMF funds are not enough.

The communiqué also agreed to urge the IMF to organise a short-term financing scheme to help countries to combat 21st Century prob-

lems. The outcome has been a crushing blow to the pride of several Asian countries, especially Japan and Malaysia which had been vocal about an Asian fund independent of IMF supervision.

Roberto de Ocampo, Financial Secretary of the Philippines, told reporters there had been fears among officials that such an independent fund "could be used as an excuse not to make hard decisions". He added it could also provide a tempting target "for speculators to draw down significant amounts from the pool itself".

The plan for an Asian fund was strongly opposed by Michel Camdessus, IMF Managing Director. He wanted a regional surveillance mechanism to protect the Asian economy from future shocks.

## Lloyds Bank Interest Rates for Business Customers

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LOANS

	% Per Month	Eqv. Annual Rate %
Business Loan Standard and Farm Business Loan Standard	1.06	12.72
Business Loan Preferential and Farm Business Loan Preferential	0.89	10.68
Small Business Loan Standard	1.16	13.92 (APR 14.8)*
Managed Small Business Loan and Farm Small Business Loan	1.06	12.72 (APR 13.4)*

\*The APR does not take into account any additional charges (eg arrangement fees/fees charged monthly/weekly) which may be applicable.

MORTGAGES

Band	% Per Month	Eqv. Annual Rate %
A (and Standard)	1.03	12.36
B	0.85	11.40
C	0.86	10.32
D	0.82	9.84
Unauthorised	2.00	24.00

INTEREST EARNING ACCOUNTS

Premier Interest Account†	Gross Rate %	Gross CAR %
£250,000+	5.85	6.01
£100,000+	5.65	5.80
£ 25,000+	5.35	5.48
£ 10,000+	4.95	5.06

†No interest is paid on balances below £10,000

Business Reserve Account	Gross Rate %	Gross CAR %
£10,000+	4.80	4.89
Below £10,000	4.50	4.58

Business Call Account	Gross Rate %	Gross CAR %
£250,000+	4.45	4.54
£ 50,000+	4.25	4.33
£ 10,000+	3.90	3.97
£ 1,000+	3.60	3.66
Below £1,000	3.35	3.40

OVERDRAFTS

Band	% Per Month	Eqv. Annual Rate %
A (and Standard)	1.03	12.36
B	0.85	11.40
C	0.86	10.32
D	0.82	9.84
Unauthorised	2.00	24.00

Interest rates may vary from time to time. The notice lists current rates. Gross Rate - does not take into account deduction of tax at the lower rate. Net Rate - the rate of interest after deduction of tax at the lower rate. This is shown for illustrative purposes only. Certain customers may be able to reclaim the tax from the Inland Revenue. Gross CAR - compounded annual rate when full monthly, quarterly or half-yearly interest remains invested. Business Call Account and Premier Interest Account require interest to be paid monthly. Business Reserve Account requires interest to be paid quarterly.

These rates of interest apply with effect from 20 November 1997

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# Equities rally at the close

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES					
150.00	148.00	Heavenly Brew	149.00	+1.3	18.5
120.00	118.00	Heavenly Brew	119.00	+1.7	18.5
100.00	98.00	Heavenly Brew	99.00	+1.0	18.5
BANKS					
150.00	148.00	Bank of England	149.00	+1.3	18.5
120.00	118.00	Bank of England	119.00	+1.7	18.5
100.00	98.00	Bank of England	99.00	+1.0	18.5
BREWERIES, PUBS & REST					
150.00	148.00	Heavenly Brew	149.00	+1.3	18.5
120.00	118.00	Heavenly Brew	119.00	+1.7	18.5
100.00	98.00	Heavenly Brew	99.00	+1.0	18.5
BUILDING & CONSTRUCT					
150.00	148.00	Heavenly Brew	149.00	+1.3	18.5
120.00	118.00	Heavenly Brew	119.00	+1.7	18.5
100.00	98.00	Heavenly Brew	99.00	+1.0	18.5
BUILDING MATERIALS					
150.00	148.00	Heavenly Brew	149.00	+1.3	18.5
120.00	118.00	Heavenly Brew	119.00	+1.7	18.5
100.00	98.00	Heavenly Brew	99.00	+1.0	18.5
CHEMICALS					
150.00	148.00	Heavenly Brew	149.00	+1.3	18.5
120.00	118.00	Heavenly Brew	119.00	+1.7	18.5
100.00	98.00	Heavenly Brew	99.00	+1.0	18.5
DISTRIBUTORS					
150.00	148.00	Heavenly Brew	149.00	+1.3	18.5
120.00	118.00	Heavenly Brew	119.00	+1.7	18.5
100.00	98.00	Heavenly Brew	99.00	+1.0	18.5
ELECTRICITY					
150.00	148.00	Heavenly Brew	149.00	+1.3	18.5
120.00	118.00	Heavenly Brew	119.00	+1.7	18.5
100.00	98.00	Heavenly Brew	99.00	+1.0	18.5
ELECTRONIC & ELECT					
150.00	148.00	Heavenly Brew	149.00	+1.3	18.5
120.00	118.00	Heavenly Brew	119.00	+1.7	18.5
100.00	98.00	Heavenly Brew	99.00	+1.0	18.5
ENGINEERING					
150.00	148.00	Heavenly Brew	149.00	+1.3	18.5
120.00	118.00	Heavenly Brew	119.00	+1.7	18.5
100.00	98.00	Heavenly Brew	99.00	+1.0	18.5
ENGINEERING VEHICLES					
150.00	148.00	Heavenly Brew	149.00	+1.3	18.5
120.00	118.00	Heavenly Brew	119.00	+1.7	18.5
100.00	98.00	Heavenly Brew	99.00	+1.0	18.5
FOOD MANUFACTURERS					
150.00	148.00	Heavenly Brew	149.00	+1.3	18.5
120.00	118.00	Heavenly Brew	119.00	+1.7	18.5
100.00	98.00	Heavenly Brew	99.00	+1.0	18.5
HEALTHCARE					
150.00	148.00	Heavenly Brew	149.00	+1.3	18.5
120.00	118.00	Heavenly Brew	119.00	+1.7	18.5
100.00	98.00	Heavenly Brew	99.00	+1.0	18.5
HOUSEHOLD GOODS					
150.00	148.00	Heavenly Brew	149.00	+1.3	18.5
120.00	118.00	Heavenly Brew	119.00	+1.7	18.5
100.00	98.00	Heavenly Brew	99.00	+1.0	18.5
INSURANCE					
150.00	148.00	Heavenly Brew	149.00	+1.3	18.5
120.00	118.00	Heavenly Brew	119.00	+1.7	18.5
100.00	98.00	Heavenly Brew	99.00	+1.0	18.5
INVESTMENT TRUSTS					
150.00	148.00	Heavenly Brew	149.00	+1.3	18.5
120.00	118.00	Heavenly Brew	119.00	+1.7	18.5
100.00	98.00	Heavenly Brew	99.00	+1.0	18.5
LEISURE & HOTELS					
150.00	148.00	Heavenly Brew	149.00	+1.3	18.5
120.00	118.00	Heavenly Brew	119.00	+1.7	18.5
100.00	98.00	Heavenly Brew	99.00	+1.0	18.5
MEDIA					
150.00	148.00	Heavenly Brew	149.00	+1.3	18.5
120.00	118.00	Heavenly Brew	119.00	+1.7	18.5
100.00	98.00	Heavenly Brew	99.00	+1.0	18.5
MINING					
150.00	148.00	Heavenly Brew	149.00	+1.3	18.5
120.00	118.00	Heavenly Brew	119.00	+1.7	18.5
100.00	98.00	Heavenly Brew	99.00	+1.0	18.5
OIL & GAS					
150.00	148.00	Heavenly Brew	149.00	+1.3	18.5
120.00	118.00	Heavenly Brew	119.00	+1.7	18.5
100.00	98.00	Heavenly Brew	99.00	+1.0	18.5
OTHER FINANCIAL					
150.00	148.00	Heavenly Brew	149.00	+1.3	18.5
120.00	118.00	Heavenly Brew	119.00	+1.7	18.5
100.00	98.00	Heavenly Brew	99.00	+1.0	18.5
PHARMACEUTICALS					
150.00	148.00	Heavenly Brew	149.00	+1.3	18.5
120.00	118.00	Heavenly Brew	119.00	+1.7	18.5
100.00	98.00	Heavenly Brew	99.00	+1.0	18.5
PRINTING & PAPER					
150.00	148.00	Heavenly Brew	149.00	+1.3	18.5
120.00	118.00	Heavenly Brew	119.00	+1.7	18.5
100.00	98.00	Heavenly Brew	99.00	+1.0	18.5
PROPERTY					
150.00	148.00	Heavenly Brew	149.00	+1.3	18.5
120.00	118.00	Heavenly Brew	119.00	+1.7	18.5
100.00	98.00	Heavenly Brew	99.00	+1.0	18.5
RETAILERS, FOOD					
150.00	148.00	Heavenly Brew	149.00	+1.3	18.5
120.00	118.00	Heavenly Brew	119.00	+1.7	18.5
100.00	98.00	Heavenly Brew	99.00	+1.0	18.5
RETAILERS, GENERAL					
150.00	148.00	Heavenly Brew	149.00	+1.3	18.5
120.00	118.00	Heavenly Brew	119.00	+1.7	18.5
100.00	98.00	Heavenly Brew	99.00	+1.0	18.5
SUPPORT SERVICES					
150.00	148.00	Heavenly Brew	149.00	+1.3	18.5
120.00	118.00	Heavenly Brew	119.00	+1.7	18.5
100.00	98.00	Heavenly Brew	99.00	+1.0	18.5
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
150.00	148.00	Heavenly Brew	149.00	+1.3	18.5
120.00	118.00	Heavenly Brew	119.00	+1.7	18.5
100.00	98.00	Heavenly Brew	99.00	+1.0	18.5
TEXTILES & APPAREL					
150.00	148.00	Heavenly Brew	149.00	+1.3	18.5
120.00	118.00	Heavenly Brew	119.00	+1.7	18.5
100.00	98.00	Heavenly Brew	99.00	+1.0	18.5
WATER					
150.00	148.00	Heavenly Brew	149.00	+1.3	18.5
120.00	118.00	Heavenly Brew	119.00	+1.7	18.5
100.00	98.00	Heavenly Brew	99.00	+1.0	18.5

1997						1998						1999					
High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E	High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E	High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
LEISURE & HOTELS																	
120.00	118.00	Heavenly Brew	119.00	+1.7	18.5	120.00	118.00	Heavenly Brew	119.00	+1.7	18.5	120.00	118.00	Heavenly Brew	119.00	+1.7	18.5
100.00	98.00	Heavenly Brew	99.00	+1.0	18.5	100.00	98.00	Heavenly Brew	99.00	+1.0	18.5	100.00	98.00	Heavenly Brew	99.00	+1.0	18.5
80.00	78.00	Heavenly Brew	79.00	+1.3	18.5	80.00	78.00	Heavenly Brew	79.00	+1.3	18.5	80.00	78.00	Heavenly Brew	79.00	+1.3	18.5
60.00	58.00	Heavenly Brew	59.00	+1.7	18.5	60.00	58.00	Heavenly Brew	59.00	+1.7	18.5	60.00	58.00	Heavenly Brew	59.00	+1.7	18.5
40.00	38.00	Heavenly Brew	39.00	+2.6	18.5	40.00	38.00	Heavenly Brew	39.00	+2.6	18.5	40.00	38.00	Heavenly Brew	39.00	+2.6	18.5
20.00	18.00	Heavenly Brew	19.00	+5.6	18.5	20.00	18.00	Heavenly Brew	19.00	+5.6	18.5	20.00	18.00	Heavenly Brew	19.00	+5.6	18.5
ENGINEERING VEHICLES																	
120.00	118.00	Heavenly Brew	119.00	+1.7	18.5	120.00	118.00	Heavenly Brew	119.00	+1.7	18.5	120.00	118.00	Heavenly Brew	119.00	+1.7	18.5
100.00	98.00	Heavenly Brew	99.00	+1.0	18.5	100.00	98.00	Heavenly Brew	99.00	+1.0	18.5	100.00	98.00	Heavenly Brew	99.00	+1.0	18.5
80.00	78.00	Heavenly Brew	79.00	+1.3	18.5	80.00	78.00	Heavenly Brew	79.00	+1.3	18.5	80.00	78.00	Heavenly Brew	79.00	+1.3	18.5
60.00	58.00	Heavenly Brew	59.00	+1.7	18.5	60.00	58.00	Heavenly Brew	59.00	+1.7	18.5	60.00	58.00	Heavenly Brew	59.00	+1.7	18.5
40.00	38.00	Heavenly Brew	39.00	+2.6	18.5	40.00	38.00	Heavenly Brew	39.00	+2.6	18.5	40.00	38.00	Heavenly Brew	39.00	+2.6	18.5
20.00	18.00	Heavenly Brew	19.00	+5.6	18.5	20.00	18.00	Heavenly Brew	19.00	+5.6	18.5	20.00	18.00	Heavenly Brew	19.00	+5.6	18.5
FOOD MANUFACTURERS																	
120.00	118.00	Heavenly Brew	119.00	+1.7	18.5	120.00	118.00	Heavenly Brew	119.00	+1.7	18.5	120.00	118.00	Heavenly Brew	119.00	+1.7	18.5
100.00	98.00	Heavenly Brew	99.00	+1.0	18.5	100.00	98.00	Heavenly Brew	99.00	+1.0	18.5	100.00	98.00	Heavenly Brew	99.00	+1.0	18.5
80.00	78.00	Heavenly Brew	79.00	+1.3	18.5	80.00	78.00	Heavenly Brew	79.00	+1.3	18.5	80.00	78.00	Heavenly Brew	79.00	+1.3	18.5
60.00	58.00	Heavenly Brew	59.00	+1.7	18.5	60.00	58.00	Heavenly Brew	59.00	+1.7	18.5	60.00	58.00	Heavenly Brew	59.00	+1.7	18.5
40.00	38.00	Heavenly Brew	39.00	+2.6	18.5	40.00	38.00	Heavenly Brew	39.00	+2.6	18.5	40.00	38.00	Heavenly Brew	39.00	+2.6	18.5
20.00	18.00	Heavenly Brew	19.00	+5.6	18.5	20.00	18.00	Heavenly Brew	19.00	+5.6	18.5	20.00	18.00	Heavenly Brew	19.00	+5.6	18.5
MEDIA																	
120.00	118.00	Heavenly Brew	119.00	+1.7	18.5	120.00	118.00	Heavenly Brew	119.00	+1.7	18.5	120.00	118.00	Heavenly Brew	119.00	+1.7	18.5
100.00	98.00	Heavenly Brew	99.00	+1.0	18.5	100.00	98.00	Heavenly Brew	99.00	+1.0	18.5	100.00	98.00	Heavenly Brew	99.00	+1.0	18.5
80.00	78.00	Heavenly Brew	79.00	+1.3	18.5	80.00	78.00	Heavenly Brew	79.00	+1.3	18.5	80.00	78.00	Heavenly Brew	79.00	+1.3	18.5
60.00	58.00	Heavenly Brew	59.00	+1.7	18.5	60.00	58.00	Heavenly Brew	59.00	+1.7	18.5	60.00	58.00	Heavenly Brew	59.00	+1.7	18.5
40.00	38.00	Heavenly Brew	39.00	+2.6	18.5	40.00	38.00	Heavenly Brew	39.00	+2.6	18.5	40.00	38.00	Heavenly Brew	39.00	+2.6	18.5
20.00	18.00	Heavenly Brew	19.00	+5.6	18.5	20.00	18.00	Heavenly Brew	19.00	+5.6	18.5	20.00	18.00	Heavenly Brew	19.00	+5.6	18.5
HEALTHCARE																	
120.00	118.00	Heavenly Brew	119.00	+1.7	18.5	120.00	118.00	Heavenly Brew	119.00	+1.7	18.5	120.00	118.00	Heavenly Brew	119.00	+1.7	18.5
100.00	98.00	Heavenly Brew	99.00	+1.0	18.5	100.00	98.00	Heavenly Brew	99.00	+1.0	18.5	100.00	98.00	Heavenly Brew	99.00	+1.0	18.5
80.00	78.00	Heavenly Brew	79.00	+1.3	18.5	80.00	78.00	Heavenly Brew	79.00	+1.3	18.5	80.00	78.00	Heavenly Brew	79.00	+1.3	18.5
60.00	58.00	Heavenly Brew	59.00	+1.7	18.5	60.00	58.00	Heavenly Brew	59.00	+1.7	18.5	60.00	58.00	Heavenly Brew	59.00	+1.7	18.5
40.00	38.00	Heavenly Brew	39.00	+2.6	18.5	40.00	38.00	Heavenly Brew	39.00	+2.6	18.5	40.00	38.00	Heavenly Brew	39.00	+2.6	18.5
20.00	18.00	Heavenly Brew	19.00	+5.6	18.5	20.00	18.00	Heavenly Brew	19.00	+5.6	18.5	20.00	18.00	Heavenly Brew	19.00	+5.6	18.5



مركزا من لامل

## Blown off course

AS WITH most of Judith Weir's music, the concept behind her latest score is intriguing. "I have often wished," she says of the role played by the natural and magical elements in *The Tempest*, "that I could see a production of this play with no actors in it. *Storm* is perhaps the soundtrack of that production, performed in a concert hall."

Given such an imaginative composer and the colour resources of the City of Birmingham Symphony Youth Chorus, combined with those of nine instrumentalists from the CBSO, there was every reason to expect something atmospheric and illuminating. That's why, on its first performance, conducted by the chorus director Simon Halsey in Symphony Hall, *Storm* was so disappointing.

In a youth concert, with the plainly repetitive instrumental parts played by the young musicians they seem to have been written for, Weir's score would have been heard in a more favourable context.

One could have noted with educational approval the prominent presence of a thunderstorm in the storm and the use of 20 or so other bits and pieces of percussion, together with three flutes and three cellos, to represent the island's "thousand twanging instruments".

One could also have enjoyed the unsophisticated sound of

### CONCERT

CBSO/Halsey  
Birmingham

dozens of treble and adolescent soprano and alto voices lifting melodiously through the harmonically and rhythmically straightforward vocal parts.

In a CBSO concert in Symphony Hall, with Mahler's Fifth Symphony to come after the interval, *Storm* was sadly out of place. There is more interesting music in a dozen spoken lines from *The Tempest* than in the 20 minutes of Weir's work.

By the end of this month, when Simon Rattle and the CBSO get back from a tour of Switzerland and Austria, they will have given at least eight more performances of Mahler's Fifth. So it is fortunate that there is still something to work for. The virtuoso first horn part is already well under control, as is most of the scoring for brass and woodwind. The cellos are impressive, too. But the violin sound is, as yet, ill-focused and easily swamped, while the interpretation, characteristically fervent though it is, really needs to have more patience with the structural strategy of the last movement.

GERALD LARNER

# Superstar in search of peace

Brad Pitt tells Martyn Palmer why his need for a quiet time making *Seven Years in Tibet* left him trapped behind barbed wire

Shortly after arriving in Uspallata, a remote dustbowl of a town in the foothills of the Andes, director Jean-Jacques Annaud was faced with having to call his studio back in Hollywood with a rather unusual request in order to protect his big star, Brad Pitt. Annaud had chosen Uspallata (population 200) and the surrounding area on the Argentine border with Chile because of its similarities to the Himalayas, where his latest project, *Seven Years in Tibet* — reviewed by Geoff Brown on the facing page — is set. He also chose it because, he thought, it would mean that the cast and crew — Pitt in particular — would be left in peace to get on with the job. But Annaud had seriously underestimated the pulling power of Hollywood's No 1 golden boy.

"The first day he arrived I took him to this little restaurant at the gas station," Annaud says. "Suddenly six buses stop in front of the restaurant and girls are pouring out and screaming. 'Aaaaah, Brad Pitt! Brad Pitt!' It was like the Beatles or something."

The paparazzi weren't far behind. Annaud estimates that within a couple of days there were more than 150 different cars, trucks and vans full of photographers from all over the world converging on the town. Annaud had no choice but to move his star into the local army barracks. It was siege time.

"The whole barracks was immediately surrounded by screaming women and photographers," Annaud says. "It had machineguns on the outside walls but I suppose they knew that we couldn't shoot them so they started climbing the walls. The first hill they saw back at the studio was \$60,000 for six miles of barbed wire to put around the perimeter wall. They said: 'This isn't in the budget. I said: 'I know, but what do you expect me to do?'"

The actor himself, who has seen his popularity soar ever since he played a charismatic drifter in *Thelma and Louise* six years ago, says that even he was surprised by the furore. "We were in the middle of nowhere and I thought it would be the one place we would escape all that. Then again they'd had *Evita* down in Argentina, with Madonna and everything, and whenever you bring a movie into somewhere and make it tangible for people, there is curiosity. In the end, you just have to get on with the job."

If Pitt is philosophical about the fuss, there are signs that, at 33, the novelty of a life lived under the

microscope, where his every move is analysed and judged, is beginning to wear off. Earlier this year, when his relationship with the actress Gwyneth Paltrow ended, the attention reached fever pitch, leaving him weary and somewhat guarded.

Indeed, he says that one of the reasons he chose to make *Seven Years in Tibet* was because the film's central theme deals with the ultimate shallowness of the individual's quest for success at all costs. Material rewards — and Pitt is now said to be paid \$12 million per picture — do not necessarily bring happiness. "We think that success will patch up some kind of hole in our lives and the truth is that it doesn't," Pitt says. "But I can say that until I'm blue in the face and no one is going to hear it."

Pitt feels that the enormous rewards, which Hollywood bestows on its chosen few bring their own very real problems. And that success is hollow without "something else", whether it be religion, a secure relationship or whatever, to act as an anchor in life.

"Yeah, sure, I think that's why you see so many of us actors who don't last the long run and don't survive it," he says. "They become self-destructive, whether it's with their career or their life. And I think it's why people have overdosed and so many people have checked out. It's a beast. And it actually puts the emphasis on the wrong thing. You get away with more instead of looking within."

*Seven Years in Tibet* is based on the true story of Austrian mountaineer Heinrich Harrer, who in 1939 left behind his pregnant wife to join an expedition which set out to climb Nanga Parbat, one of the highest peaks in the Himalayas.

Harrer, a self-centred, arrogant man, and his colleagues were captured by the British after war was declared. They escaped and Harrer, along with expedition leader Peter Aufschnaiter (played in the film by David Thewlis), trekked through the Himalayas for two years before eventually smuggling themselves into the mysterious Tibetan city of Lhasa, where they were befriended by the 14-year-old Dalai Lama. Harrer, now 85, became one of the Dalai's tutors and, through his friendship, experienced the spiritual awakening which is at the very heart of the film.

But, as the production neared its completion, Germany's *Stern* magazine revealed what director Annaud



It's either Indiana Jones come to the foothills of the Himalayas or Brad Pitt loosening up a little in the Andes

says he suspected all along — that Harrer was a member of the Nazi party. "It wasn't obvious to me before we started filming that he was a Nazi," Pitt says. "He was certainly a representative of it, that much was apparent from the script. But when the story came out it took a more sensationalist tack in the sense that when you hear the word 'Nazi' you have visions of concentration camps and mass torture. That wasn't the case here."

"This was an egotistical man looking to further himself. He only cared about himself and this wasn't about political convictions. It wasn't about serving some cause or belief other than the belief in himself."

"In a way, the fact that he was a

Nazi enhances the story, because it's about coming to terms with your demons. It was certainly nothing that bothered me."

The shoot itself was extremely arduous and physically demanding on its two main stars. Pitt and Thewlis tackled most of the climbing scenes themselves, after intense pre-film training.

"Actually, we both wanted to do more," Pitt says. "The climbing became a bit of a metaphor for life. The day before you make the assault you are anxious and excited and then you finally get there and it's a battle of the head as much as anything. It's you and the mountain. It was an amazing experience."

Unlike others in Hollywood —

notably Richard Gere — Pitt's close contact with Tibetan culture has not led to him becoming a Buddhist. He is still looking for that "something else", but it has obviously made him think about his own life and values. "I'm interested in all religions," he says, "without being part of any religion. And I certainly believe that when you look at this culture, which is completely different from ours and not materialistic, we have a lot to learn from them."

"We had a lot of Tibetan people on set and you spend the day with them and you feel this inner sense of harmony and peace and yet, on the materialistic side, they have nothing. So it makes you wonder if they are on the right track and you're not."

### BRIEFLY NOTED

**■ SKATING:** Far from hanging up their skates in favour of a comfortable retirement, the world's most famous ice dancers are heading back to the rink for what promises to be an annual ice event. Torvill and Dean will perform for the first time in Britain since 1994-95 when their *Face the Music* tour played to more than one million people. Their new show, *Ice Adventures*, will be made up of five specially commissioned stories and will be choreographed by the illustrious duo with help from Robin Driscoll, the writer of *Mr Bean*. *Ice Adventures*, which also features a lineup of international skating stars, opens at the NEC in Birmingham on December 16, and reaches Wembley Arena on December 30.

**■ THEATRE:** Those of a nervous disposition are advised to steer clear of the West Yorkshire Playhouse in Leeds next February when it stages the world premiere of the first play by Irvine Welsh — *Mr Trainspotting* himself. Billed as a "revenge tragedy for the chemical age", *You'll Have Had Your Hole* (a Scottish phrase for which the polite translation is "You'll have had your oats") is set in a disused recording studio. Behind its soundproofed walls two Scots inflict bizarre and gruesome punishment on a third.

**■ DANCE:** Andrea Quinn, who cut her conducting teeth with some of Britain's top youth orchestras, has been named music director of the Royal Ballet. Quinn, who takes up the job next April, first came to the attention of the dance world when she won the Conduct for Dance competition in 1993. Since then she has worked with the Royal Ballet on several occasions, notably as music director of its Dance Bites tour. The appointment has been a long time coming, but Royal Ballet artistic director Anthony Dowell says: "Our patience in not appointing a music director until we had the right person for this demanding position has been rewarded."

**■ POP:** The war is heating up between the makers of the Barbie doll and the record label responsible for the hit single *Barbie Girl*, sung by the Danish pop duo Aqua. That, you will remember, is the song that knocked the Spice Girls off their No 1 perch. A favourite of little girls everywhere, it features lines such as "Kiss me here, touch me there, hanky panky". In September the toy manufacturer Mattel Inc sued MCA Records, claiming the lyrics "associate sexual and other unsavoury themes with its Barbie products". Now MCA has counter-sued for defamation, claiming Mattel made false statements to the press with "ill will, hatred or actual malice towards MCA".

OFFICIAL SELECTION IN COMPETITION - CANNES FILM FESTIVAL 1997

STEPHEN DILLANE WOODY HARRELSON MARISA TOMEI



WELCOME TO SARAJEVO  
A FILM BY MICHAEL WINTERBOTTOM

STARTS TODAY



AND AT CINEMAS EVERYWHERE

POP: Conner Reeves puts his blue-eyed soul to the test of live performance

## Pretty tasty, but go easy on the syrup

The apparent ease with which Conner Reeves sashayed into the public consciousness in the summer could almost restore one's faith in the fairness of the star system. South London tunesmith releases cultured debut single, radio stations play it, public buys it. The story did not just adhere to the textbook; it was superglued to it.

The subject to the success of *My Father's Son* was a relative veteran when it burst forth. He appeared to arrive as the finished singer-songwriter article thanks to a firm schooling in professional tunesmithery, during which he had compositions recorded by Tina Turner, Bonnie Raitt and others.

Reeves has recently had another Top 15 hit, *Earthbound*, and, with a maiden album of that name due in the record racks on Monday, his next test was to pass under the microscope of his first live show as a "name". The Jazz Café, in Camden, north London, was packed with

people eager to take a turn at the eyepiece.

If the album tends occasionally to have a spoonful too much syrup, its songs are founded on the exacting standards of construction set by the upscale freelance composer: memorable choruses, cut above lyrics and, best of all, a voice of an unforced and sustained soulfulness not often heard this side of the Atlantic.

All those qualities showed themselves at the Jazz Café in an increasingly confident performance. Assuming the key-boards in his trademark leather cap, he and his band led off with the tightly woven and funky *Read My Mind*. *Nobody But You* was the first to stir those feelings of excessive smoothness, and by the time Reeves underlined his emotive vocal abilities in the gospel-leaning *We are the Wave* one wished he was playing those skills in slightly more dangerous territory.

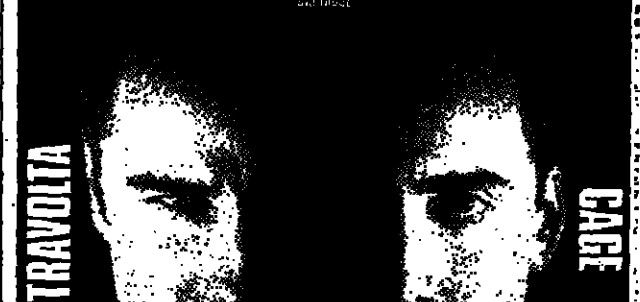
*Earthbound* came over as the kind of Kleenex ballad that could well get Hollywood on the line, as did the encore.

Ordinary People. By then the audience had warmed not only to the music but to Reeves's down-to-earth demeanour. He has the potential to be a British Babyface but,

like that multi-faceted artist, he should remember that quality material can have one coat of varnish too many.

PAUL SEXTON

"THE MOVIES PREMISE IS FANTASTIC. AN INTELLIGENT THRILLER"  
"AN EXAMPLE OF HOLLYWOOD FILM-MAKING AT ITS FLAT-OUT FINEST"



FACE/OFF  
NOW SHOWING ODEON  
AND AT CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY



**NEW MOVIES:** Geoff Brown salutes the intelligence and compassion of Gillies MacKinnon's masterly *Regeneration*

# The war film to end all war films

An overhead camera surveys the scene. Trenches. Mud. Shells exploding. Lives ending. Minds breaking. *Regeneration*, the film of Pat Barker's novel, should have been released last week, the week of Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day. Instead, we were watching Denzel Moore's muscles.

But *Regeneration* has the last laugh. For all its onslaught of imagery, G.I. Jane passes in and out of the memory. Gillies MacKinnon's film stays put, and percolates through the heart and mind. If you wondered where intelligence and feeling went in British film-making, it went here, into this powerful account of life at Craiglockhart Military Hospital in Edinburgh, 1917: home to the shell-shocked of the First World War, to Siegfried Sassoon, the soldier pacifist, to Wilfred Owen, war poet in the making, and to Dr William Rivers, the doctor undergoing his own crisis as he attends to shattered minds.

The brilliantly staged opening — one of the most vivid and terrible re-creations of the wartime trenches in all cinema — is in some ways misleading. It prefigures a film of physical action. But the bulk of the action in *Regeneration* occurs in the characters' minds, as they wage their own wars between patriotism and pacifism, sanity and madness, ways of healing, and the various divisions of friendship and class.

Allan Scott's script further complicates matters by avoiding a straight narrative line. There are no heroes or villains in this film to stir big emotions: we dart between characters who in themselves conjure ambivalent feelings. Is Sassoon a cool, collected upper-class prig, or a valiant man struggling with conflicting beliefs? As for Dr Rivers, is he friend to the patients, or their foe? Should he, indeed, be a patient himself, as disturbed as he is by the trauma of tackling trauma?

Exemplary performances guide us through this mine. In the past, James Wilby has seemed just another young man from the Merchant-Ivory picture gallery, but he works himself with considerable skill into the role of Sassoon, the decorated soldier assigned to Craiglockhart as an alternative to a court martial after issuing a statement denouncing the war. Jonathan Pryce is more compelling still as Rivers, less assured, more wounded, as the scenes proceed, especially after witnessing the electric shock treatment pioneered by John Nevilles Dr. Vealland. Vealland gives his patients a brutal job: Rivers prefers a mental massage, helping to heal delicate souls such as Stuart Bunce's Wilfred Owen

**Regeneration**  
Odeon Haymarket  
15, 113 mins  
Powerful and poignant adaptation of Pat Barker's novel

**Welcome to Sarajevo**  
Warner West End  
15, 101 mins  
The horrors of war, the agony of war reporting

**Seven Years in Tibet**  
Empire, PG, 139 mins  
Brad Pitt reaches enlightenment, but what about us?

**Lawn Dogs**  
Curzon West End  
15, 101 mins  
Lively film about forbidden friendship

**Inventing the Abbotts**  
Warner West End  
15, 106 mins  
Small-town drama not worth inventing

**Nothing to Lose**  
Warner West End  
15, 98 mins  
Except Tim Robbins's winning streak

or Jonny Lee Miller's working-class Billy, a fictional character, struck dumb by the trenches.

In the past, MacKinnon has sometimes pushed too hard for effects. But he lets Barker's material envelop us without cinema's equivalent of a rude jab with the elbow. The film's power and poignancy makes you realise anew why the First World War haunts this century so much: a way of living and a core of certainties were blasted apart in the trenches, and we are still picking up the pieces.

In 70 years will the world still be making films, or their equivalent, about the war in former Yugoslavia? I suspect not, although for several years no film festival has been complete without human dramas ripped from the Balkans. *Welcome to Sarajevo*, from the Butterfly Kiss team of Michael Winterbottom and Frank Cottrell Boyce, is Britain's first entry in the genre, and for much of the time it stands its ground well.

This is Sarajevo in 1992. Civilians fall to sniper fire with numbing suddenness; the shooting over, journalists and TV crews jump to it, wending through the carnage, bringing the horrors to fire-sides worldwide. Since this is a British movie, a certain decorum operates. It is left to the American TV journalist played by Woody Harrison to act the wild man: our own



"If you wondered where intelligence and feeling went in British film-making, it went here": a scene from *Regeneration*, based on Pat Barker's Booker-winning novel

fellow, played by Stephen Dillane, goes softly softly, at least until he takes up the cause of orphaned children and smuggles one girl out of the country in a busload of evacuees.

Dillane's character is called Michael Henderson, just a short hop away from Michael Nicholson, the ITN reporter whose experiences inspired the film. Dillane's gradual shift from objective reporter to feeling participant is absorbing, although there are a number of distractions. One is the presence of Harrison and Marisa Tomei as an aid worker: unhelpful in a film that yearns to do without Hollywood gloss. Another is Boyce's script, which cannot resist heavy irony and leaves lesser characters dangling.

The images, at least, are shaped, shot, and cut with care. During street turmoil, film and video footage alternate to striking effect. Archive footage supplies various visitations by politicians and the UN; useful for fuelling the film's exasperation with the

powers that be. In fact, for all its use of orphaned children and tender feelings, *Welcome to Sarajevo* is quite a tart movie: faults acknowledged, it should be seen.

The week's third war takes place in Tibet in 1949, when Chinese forces do their best to stamp out Buddhist religion and culture. Not that *Seven Years in Tibet* is a war movie: indeed, Jean-Jacques Annaud's elaborate international production-filmed, for safety's sake, in Argentina, does not know what it is. For the first hour, we remain locked into an uninviting if true story of Heinrich Harrer, an arrogant Austrian mountaineer played by that famous Austrian, Brad Pitt, setting out for the Himalayas shortly before the Second World War. David Thewlis, another famous Austrian, keeps him company. Together, they get dumped into a POW camp, escape, argue and generally do nothing endearing.

Then they reach Tibet. Mountains are forgotten. They form attachments. Thewlis gets the girl, but Pitt gets the boy Dalai Lama. He fills the youngster in on the Western

world, even helps to build him a cinema. The film becomes more interesting, but chaotic. Just when Pitt's spiritual growth seems the focus, the Chinese blur the issue by marching in. After two long hours, we still remain outside Heinrich Harrer's experience.

The landscape and photography are ravishing, of course. Tibet looks authentic, for all the use of a stand-in country. Pitt strips to the waist to please his fans. But all this handsomeness still leaves the film in a muddle. Tibet deserves better.

*Lawn Dogs* could be the last new film to be bashed into life by the Rank gongman. Rank

Film Distributors, who financed the venture, shot in Kentucky, now are no more. The company's progenitor, J. Arthur Rank, would probably think John Duigan's drama the work of the devil. But the film tells its story very well, with lashings of quirky atmosphere and two outstanding performances. One is Mischa Barton's ten-year-old, is wonderfully natural as the lonely and troubled girl marooned in a well-heeled suburban development. Another is Sam Rockwell's his character moves the estate's laws and endures the scorn of local layabouts and his employers. An odd friendship builds between the two outsiders: fire-works result.

The script, by Naomi Wallace, is spare and suggestive. This is the first time Duigan has worked in America, but the Australian director of *Flinging and Sirens* finds much to stimulate his visual eye in the stifling, manicured Kentucky suburb. *Lawn Dogs* looks good, feels different and feels right.

Other new films peddle worn-out goods. *Inventing the Abbotts*, directed by Pat O'Connor, is an overly solemn and old-fashioned drama, set in sunny, small-town Illinois in the late 1950s, where the working-class Holt brothers

share adolescent pains with the three daughters of the wealthy Abbott family. The cast includes Joaquin Phoenix, Billy Crudup, Will Panton and Liv Ullmann, but no one is allowed to be exciting.

Nor do sparks fly in *Nothing to Lose*, despite the provocative star billing. Tim Robbins plays an advertising executive who takes to the road with a reluctant mugger (the amiable Martin Lawrence). Robbins has shown such savvy as a director (*Bob Roberts*, *Dead Man Walking*) that his participation in Steve Oedekerk's tedious comedy comes as a rude shock. Oh well. Even Homer nods.

## MEN IN THE BUFF HAVE BEATEN THE MEN IN BLACK



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### SNAP VERDICT

#### 'Searing story'

Every week, young film fans discuss the latest releases...

**REGENERATION**  
Jethro Ankle, 18: A thoughtful psychological drama. Excellent acting.  
Dom Young, 19: Fine adaptation of Pat Barker's haunting novel.  
Leslie Isaiah Thomas, 19: The obvious commitment of the director and actors brings to life this searing story.  
Sharada Osman, 19: Could this really be the same Jonny Lee Miller we saw in *Trainspotting*? He is superb.

**SEVEN YEARS IN TIBET**  
Jethro: An ambitious movie that isn't wholly successful.  
Dom: Good solid performances from Brad Pitt and David Thewlis.  
Leslie: Provides a valuable understanding of the history and current situation of Tibet.  
Sharada: Stunningly photographed. Pitt is a revelation.

**WELCOME TO SARAJEVO**  
Jethro: Bloody marvellous. Oliver Stone, eat your heart out.  
Dom: It will stain your mind and soul.  
Leslie: The film's emotional impact comes from the use of news footage, not from the screenplay or direction.  
Sharada: Superb, realistic acting in this documentary-type film. Prepare to be stirred.

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## Sweden meets the challenger

**FESTIVAL:** Tippett goes down a treat in Scandinavia. Hilary Finch reports

There was never a Tippett festival like its 50 works in ten days, from the first *String Quartet* to his final *The Rose Lake*. And this was not London, not Boston, but Stockholm, where very little Tippett is known or played. Elderly ladies diligently read their libretti over their anoraks; punky filled the galleries. Sir Michael, now 92, set off from London with high hopes of lasting the course, but contracted pneumonia and within 12 hours was in hospital. Twenty-four hours later he was up, receiving guests and reports of each warmly received concert.

Each year the Stockholm Konserthus, home of the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic, offers an immersion course in the works of a major contemporary composer. Tippett and Part have figured in recent years, and the energy, commitment and lively curiosity revealed by the often full houses of these festivals has to be seen to be believed. For Tippett, the general manager Ake Holmqvist, who founded the festival 12 years ago, had, with generous support from the British Council, assembled Sweden's leading orchestras and choruses, and vintage Tippett performers.

The RSP itself opened the festival with Andrew Davis conducting Tippett's verbose yet musically exuberant megatext *The Mask of Time*. The auditorium of the exquisite Art Deco Konserthus revealed Tippett's shifting kaleidoscope of orchestration with thrilling clarity, whether in filigree dance or in the coppery brass and percussion resonances of primeval sacrifice. The renowned Eric Ericson Choir had perhaps underestimated the complexity of the choral writing — testing enough even for native speakers. But while their contribution was cautiously underpowered, Davis's lithe pacing provided the momentum which, with a strong

quartet of soloists including Carole Parley and Steven Page, ensured a powerful performance.

When *The Mask* was premiered in Boston in 1984 the piece, with its encyclopaedic literary and musical references, was thought to be a summation of a life's work. Of course there was much more to come: not least Tippett's remarkable 1990 setting of Yeats's *Prayer for the World*, and his golden musical domes of gothic and trumpets, its pulsating harps and its heady, meditative vocal writing. With Richard Armstrong conducting the excellent Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra, and with Helen Field re-creating with extraordinary eloquence "those images that yet fresh images beget", this was undoubtedly the highlight of the weekend.

That evening had also witnessed a timely and buoyant performance of the 1948 *Suite for the Birthday of Prince Charles* and a rigorously searching account of the Second Symphony. The heavily ornamented duet for divided cellos and violins, and the exposed writing for trumpet, flute, harp and piano in a work where Tippett was moving towards fresh concepts of orchestration and harmony, certainly put an orchestra through its paces; and the Gothenburg, riding high on its recent elevation to Sweden's "national orchestra", met every challenge head-on.

Thanks to continuing British operatic machinations Paul Daniel was unable to conduct the Triple Concerto and the Third Symphony. If the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra under Alan Francis sounded understandably cautious at the start of the symphony, the presence of soprano Faye Robinson, a Tippett veteran, raised his ironic and still disturbing response to Beethoven's Ninth Symphony to a thrillingly high level of virtuoso performance.



Tippett: warm welcome from Swedish music-lovers

# Storm and stress in Sussex

**The Chichester Theatre director tells Richard Morrison why he has suddenly quit the job**

In a plush Aldwych office from which he customarily surveys the world he knows best — London's pulsating theatre-land — Duncan Weldon crouches on the edge of an armchair, contemplating his other life, the life that came crashing down around him last weekend. Eyes bulge; fists are clenched. He is not the West End's most happy fella.

Until Monday the veteran impresario was also director of the Chichester Festival Theatre. A £600,000 loss on the year, a bust-up with the board, an outbreak of fear and loathing among the staff and a clash of violently opposed philosophies about how to keep this famous but precarious institution in business with virtually no public subsidy have put an end to that.

After a tumultuous weekend of rows Weldon quit Chichester, claiming that the board had breached his contract. The break is irrevocable; the feelings bitter. "Chichester has insurmountable financial difficulties," Weldon says. "But it's not my problem now."

At the heart of the matter is more than just a clash of personalities between Weldon, the free-wheeling deal-maker who sends starry productions round the world, and Max Davies, chairman of the date Chichester board. Weldon believes that the only way forward for Chichester is to present plays just in the summer season: a 20-week festival of big names, big audiences, healthy profits, and bankable productions that he can transfer to the West End.

"I saw from the moment I got there that the theatre had to go back to being what it was when Laurence Olivier ran it: a summer seasonal venue, closed in the winter," he says. "That is perhaps not the impression that Weldon gave to impartial observers when he took over the theatre three years ago — but it's certainly an opinion he expresses vehemently now. 'There is no public subsidy to support a 12-month season, and too small an audience'."

But many in Chichester have other ideas. They view the theatre as an all-year-round local asset. And of course the theatre staff are not amused by the prospect of being laid off for 30 weeks a year. "I recognise that I am not popular with the staff, who quite rightly see their livelihood going down the tubes because of what I'm saying," Weldon admits. "But I am a



Duncan Weldon: after a tumultuous weekend of rows he has left the Chichester Theatre, claiming that the board has breached his contract

commercial producer. I can see that only draconian action will keep Chichester alive."

"The trouble is that Chichester's board and trustees are not a knowledgeable theatre folk. There are 70 trustees, of whom 40 never come anywhere near the place. They have to realise that they are playing around in the commercial theatre. It's a high-risk game. I know — I've been in it for 30 years."

This is not the first time in the theatre's 36-year history that a director has departed suddenly and sullenly. Six years ago Michael Rudman was dismissed after just one season, apparently for taking "too many artistic risks for comfortable Sussex tastes."

But Weldon's tenure had begun so promisingly. For a start, he was no newcomer: over the decades he had transferred more than 30 Chichester productions to the West End. And he talked convincingly about restoring what he still refers to as "the third most important theatre organisation in Britain, after the National and RSC" to the centre of theatrical life.

His plans were dazzling. Arriving in 1995 he offered a summer of wall-to-wall stars

— Lauren Bacall, Derek Jacobi, Ian Richardson, Pinter, Keith Michell, Leo McKern — and the season turned in a tidy profit. The next year the mixture was as before. And although this produced a small loss, Weldon was given a five-year extension to his contract.

Then came the *annus horribilis* of 1997. A £600,000 deficit inexorably piled up, and the critical consensus was that the season had fewer highlights than Weldon's earlier two. Even allowing Weldon's point that "75 per cent of the deficit was caused by the less successful winter season (which he does not present), how does

he account for Chichester's sudden plunge in fortunes? "Actually I think we are still very successful. We mounted 12 productions during the summer, we played to 200,000 people, and if we were even slightly subsidised we would have ended in profit. After all, £600,000 is just a fraction of West Yorkshire Playhouse's subsidy."

But Chichester isn't subsidised. Surely Weldon should have cut his coat according to his cloth? "Yes, but this year we were hit by two extraordinary factors. First, we lost

Maureen Lipman from *Blithe Spirit* at the end of rehearsals. She was seriously ill, but that undoubtedly cost us £200,000. Then came the death of Princess Diana. That obliterated our business for two weeks, as it did in the West End and everywhere else."

The accusation from some in Chichester, however, is that Weldon was using Chichester to rehearse and fine-tune glamorous productions that he could then present profitably elsewhere. What is his answer to that? "Look, I bring in stars to do quality theatre. I've done that around the world, and that's what I was asked to do by the Chichester board. If I had been told that I couldn't take the productions elsewhere, I would not have accepted the job."

"I know that some people in Chichester resent the fact that shows like *Zoe Wanjiku* in *Electra* go on to be successful in London. I also accept that some people would like to turn Chichester into a repertory company with no stars. But if that's what they want, I am not the man for the job. They knew that from the start."

Perhaps they should also have known that Weldon, a tough metropolitan operator to his fingertips, was hardly the man to enjoy mingling socially with the Sussex

squirearchy. "I have no interest in attending baby shows, going to local art galleries, or reading a lesson in the cathedral," he says. "My sole interest, 24 hours a day, is in putting on quality drama."

Events came to a head last Saturday, Weldon says that he was "pressured" into agreeing to stay for just one year of his contracted four. Then on Monday, he says, his second-in-command was suspended from Chichester by the chairman. That, he argues, breaches the hire-and-fire terms of his own contract, and he is now seeking redress. "I cannot have an amateur board interfere with my professional integrity," he says.

What happens now? Weldon believes that if the season was cut to 20 weeks in the summer, with only eight plays spread over the main stage and the Minerva studio, Chichester could still be run without subsidy. However, an all-year theatre would require a level of support from local authorities and regional and national arts bodies that has not been forthcoming, and is even less likely now. And unlike Glyndebourne — Sussex's other bastion of unsubsidised culture — Chichester has no big corporate sponsors behind the scenes. Its trustees may now be wondering whether its days as a glorious anachronism are numbered. But as Weldon says, that is no longer his problem.

**Only draconian action will keep Chichester alive**

## EXCLUSIVE OFFER THE TIMES Royal Golden Wedding Anniversary Limited Edition Cover



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SIR GEORGE SOLTI'S death in late summer alas put an end to a most rewarding operatic partnership with Renee Fleming. The American soprano had been the star of the conductor's last two Mozart sets, *Cost and Don Giovanni*. Fortunately, he left behind this recital disc, wide-ranging and revealing Fleming's growing vocal resources.

Together they begin almost where they left off, with the Countess's two arias from *Figaro* taken very slowly by Solti to let the Fleming lustre show through. There is a shimmering account (in Czech) of *O silver moon* from Dvořák's *Rusalka*, an opera she has been singing all over America. But then the boundaries are pushed out to display the increasing security of her lower register.

Ellen Orford from *Grimes* may seem an unlikely role, but she gives the Embroidery aria, generally supported by Jonathan Summers, much warmth (and Solti is not too often heard in Britain). She remains mistress of the final emotional flourish at the end of a long aria, as Tatyana's troubled letter to Onegin proves. Most interesting of all is the close of *Daphne*, which suggests that Strauss's late heroines might provide her next career move. Here the orchestra has the last word and, perhaps in memory of Solti, that is how it should be.

**Barry Millington**

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THE great coup of this new recording of Handel's Organ Concertos by Paul Nicholson with the Brandenburg Consort under Roy Goodman is to have secured the instrument on which the composer played at St Lawrence, Whitchurch. The organ has recently been restored by Martin Goetze and Dominic Gwynn as far as possible in the form in which Handel would have known it. Meaty diapasons and piquant mutations and mixtures are the result, all enhanced by a specially designed pitch and tuning system. The somewhat aggressive character of the instrument has inspired the performers to essay equally robust and forthright accounts of these works.

For a more relaxed approach, the new version from Bob van Asperen and the OAE (Virgin Veritas) can also be recommended, but it is the Hyperion set that casts the greater light, and Nicholson's playing is unfailingly stylish.

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Lawrence James on the dreams of power that made Napoleon Emperor — and were his downfall

## Victim of his own success

Napoleon never lost faith in himself. Even on St Helena, when picking over what had gone wrong, he blamed two convenient culprits: his subordinates and fate. It is paradoxical that the man whom the Romantic imagination portrayed as the spirit of the Enlightenment in arms against the forces of unreason and darkness was profoundly superstitious. Napoleon believed he was a child of fortune, a gambler who relied on luck and a benevolent star which directed his destiny.

In this brilliant biography, which will surely become a classic life of Napoleon, McLynn analyses his complex and contradictory motives and sees him and them in the context of the world he strove to reshape.

The author rightly stresses the unresolved inner struggle between the rational, modern man and the credulous stargazer who claimed that a "little red man" advised him whenever he was about to take a crucial decision.

Playing host to phantoms may well have been part of Napoleon's Corsican inheritance, which provided what McLynn calls the "primitive" strain in his temperament. It also showed itself by displays of loudness, outbursts of spleen, an addiction to chicanery and sexual selfishness. Corsica also provided Napoleon with a family which clung to his coat tails and proved a liability throughout his career.

It was the French Revolution, designed to place reason in control of human affairs, which gave Napoleon his chances. The malcontent subaltern moved steadily upwards and, in the process, fulfilled private Caesarian fantasies. He made himself invaluable to those with power, but avoided close attachment to any particular cause. The breakthrough came after his Egyptian adventure of 1798-99, when force, effrontery and reputation procured him the consulship which opened the way to an imperial crown.

Napoleon's victories had clearly

caught the imagination of France and sowed the seeds of a legend which would be carefully cultivated by his propaganda machine. But the First Consul was enough of a pragmatist to appreciate that a slavish press and popular prints of David's heroic canvases were not the foundations of an enduring personal dictatorship. Apolitical, Napoleon resorted to plebiscites in which he appealed directly to the self-interest of those like himself who had done well out of the Revolution. Stability and the right of property were his catchwords and they won over the bourgeoisie and the richer peasants who wanted the chance to enjoy their gains in peace and prosper. The Rights of Man were applied selectively and Liberty, Equality and Fraternity, which had given France a decade of turbulence, discreetly sidelined.

In their place was the pursuit of *Gloire*, which turned so many young heads and added lustre to Napoleon's prestige. Moreover, soldiering in the Grande Armée was highly profitable. Napoleon turned a blind eye to his commanders' greed (which he shared) and, as McLynn points out, many French generals were little more than brigands in cocked hats. Progress and Modernisation continued under Napoleon, but was regulated in the interests of the French State by a centralised bureaucracy. Dissent, whether from the Royalist Right or the Jacobin Left, was stifled by the secret police.

Napoleonic France inherited its predecessors' conflicts with Britain over the dispensation of world power (now very much in favour of the latter) and with the *ancien régime* monarchies of Austria, Prussia and Russia over the ordering of Europe. There was also the Emperor's Alexandrian dream of conquest in the Middle East and Asia where French armies would regenerate decayed civilisations with injections of the new Enlightenment. The scope of Napoleon's ambitions and Britain's



A gambler who believed he was a child of fortune: Napoleon painted in 1814 by Paul Delaroche

determination to scotch them made war unavoidable.

It was a contest of stamina and resources and, after the Russian debacle, Napoleon was running short of both. His continental puppet states were swallowed up by France and their citizens became victims of the Grande Armée's insatiable demands for cash and conscripts. How long these burdens could have been sustained without serious unrest, or whether it could have been contained, can only be guessed at. By 1813, Brittany, long a hotbed of Bourbon resistance, had become almost ungovernable and there was evasion of the draft throughout Napoleon's Empire.

Facing defeat, Napoleon pictured himself as a Promethean figure

betrayed by fate. For Frenchmen, the horrors of invasion were stark enough to convince them that they were better off without a man of destiny. Indeed, when Napoleon had gone, the bulk of his servants became loyal subjects of Louis XVIII: Talleyrand, Soult and Regions of functionaries surpassed their former master in the art of political survival. Three million soldiers of the Grande Armée did not survive, having died in battle or from sickness.

The Napoleonic myth lived on. Stendhal's young heroes attempted to base their lives on it and Byron lamented the loss of an heroic liberal spirit who had endeavoured to overcome all that was evil in his time. There was some truth in this. Europe's *ancien régime* never

recovered from Napoleon's assaults and, in time, were transformed by the ideas he had claimed to champion. He had raised French nationalism to a level of dangerous hubris, and, unwittingly, did the same for British and Spanish. Again, unintentionally, he had delivered Britain global supremacy and drawn Russia into the centre stage of European affairs, where it has remained ever since. When Stalin was asked what it felt like to stand on Frederick the Great's parade ground at Potsdam, he remarked that Tsar Alexander I had ridden into Paris.

Lawrence James's *Raj: The Making and Unmaking of British India*, published by Little, Brown, priced £25.

## No case for laying blame on the dead

Historians are supposed to be clinically detached, but Sheldon Watts's exploration of the pestilences of the past seethes with passion. Successive chapters vividly recreate the suffering and devastation brought about over the centuries by bubonic plague, leprosy, smallpox, cholera, yellow fever and malaria.

Imagine going down with cholera in 1830. You grew nauseous and dizzy. Stomach cramps, vomiting and diarrhoea rapidly followed, and your stools turned to a grey liquid known as rice water. You passed up to 10 litres in 24 hours before dehydration set in. You could wake up hale and hearty but be a corpse tomorrow. There was no cure. It was a terrible way to die — indeed, it can be still, and the current cholera pandemic, starting in 1961 in Indonesia and rampant in Asia and South America, is the longest pandemic ever.

The real scandal, in Watts's view, is that such catastrophes, far from being inevitable accidents of nature, were, and remain, the avoidable products of human agency or neglect. To be precise, it is the triumph of the West which has aggravated these killer diseases. Capitalism has wrecked stable ecological and social systems, and imperialist greed has created the ideal environments for malaria, TB and Aids. In short, development spreads disease.

For those who, like myself, were brought up at school on heroic stories of medical missionaries, Watts's message may seem mean. Yet no one can deny his book is well-documented: ample evidence is adduced to show that, be it in medieval Europe or modernising Ethiopia, the measures jointly taken by civil and medical authorities to prevent pestilence or counter plague commonly did suffer from precious little good, and often made bad worse.

Indeed, Watts argues, such policies were often actually intended to be punitive, as priests and physicians would hold natives or paupers responsible for bringing disease about in the first place. The authorities often regarded the diseased as more threatening than the diseases, and epidemics frequently triggered victim-blaming and oppression. Thus Europe's first pogroms against the Jews were

launched to assuage God's wrath at the height of the Black Death. Later on, doling out smallpox-infected blankets to native Indians, North American colonists might turn pathogens into weapons of war, while crediting the outcome to "the good hand of God". Based in Cairo and hence immune from automatic Eurocentrism, Watts is as sceptical of the medical profession as of the governments and business interests they ultimately served. His case carries much conviction.

Yet *Epidemics and History* also suffers from overkill, because Watts cannot resist the itch to pass sentence upon the dead. Physicians are scolded if they intervened ineptly — for example by setting up leper colonies, when they had no effective treatments. But they

Roy Porter

**EPIDEMICS AND HISTORY**  
Disease, Power and Imperialism  
By Sheldon Watts  
Yale, £29.95  
ISBN 0 300 07015 2

are equally censured for inaction.

Whatever doctors did was wrong, seems to be Watts's cynical line — a judgment which follows from his conviction that the medical profession blindly clung to worthless "flat-earth false knowledge". Thus the Victorian John Snow, the first to demonstrate how cholera is communicated via contaminated water, gets a rap over the knuckles, since he neglected to peer down a microscope and so failed to discover the cholera bacillus. The verdict is anachronistic and preachy.

The upshot is a kind of history-by-hindsight which ironically echoes the moral superiority of the imperialists here so scathingly denounced. Nevertheless, Watts's urge to affix blame springs from a generous rage on behalf of humanity, and this trenchant book provides a salutary antidote to world-health complacency past and present.

Roy Porter's latest book, *The Greatest Benefit to Mankind: A Medical History*, is published by HarperCollins, priced £24.99.

## Wild men of the city who had to pick a pocket or two

Ian McIntyre returns to Defoe in a quest for true 18th-century London

The two most fascinating subjects in the Universe," Brigid Brophy once asserted in a celebrated generalisation, "are sex and the 18th century." I don't quarrel about the period, but a decent case could be made for deleting sex and inserting crime.

Criminal biography was already established as a genre by the middle 16th century. Indeed, it afforded a lucrative if unusual perk for the chaplain of Newgate Prison, who enjoyed the sole right to publish the dying speeches and lives of those of his charges whom the hangman "turned off" on Tyburn Tree. Grub Street hacks also got in on the act. The most successful of them was the self-styled "Captain" Alexander Smith, whose *Complete History of the Lives and Robberies of the Most Notorious Highwayman* appeared in 1713 and

paragraph described a robbery at a house in Bridgewater Square one Sunday. "Jonathan Wild was consulted that evening, but he, good man, was pleased to tell those that applied to him, that he did no business on the Lord's Day." Mr Michael Cole, that suave guardian of the Vestal flame at Harrods, could not have put it better.

Lucy Moore's second subject is Jack Sheppard, who

started out by working "the buttock and file" — robbing men lured by prostitutes into unlit alleyways. He later specialised in housebreaking, and became famous for a number of Houdini-like escapes from prison. He was hanged in 1724, and his "dying speech" may well have been ghosted by Defoe.

Why attempt yet again something that has already been done often and well?

Moore explains that she saw their lives as "means through which I could explore and discuss aspects of the society in which they lived — its rituals and mores as well as the day-to-day details of living and surviving."

She attempts this in a series of what are termed "digressions" on such topics as hanging and prison life. There were moments when I felt overwhelmed by the volume of information that was being thrust at me: Jean Brodie is one of my heroines, but I am resistant to any impression that I am being addressed schoolmarmishly.

The writing is not free of received opinion: "In 18th-century Europe, London was the apogee of sophistication and fashionable life." But if that were so, French *costumiers* would hardly have sent over little dolls dressed in the style of the year, nor would there have been such a ready sale for publications like *The Ladies Toilet*, a translation of a Paris manual describing the 45 ways of dressing a lady's hair.

There are occasional obscurities. The upper classes, we are told, "lived within a cordon sanitaire of political dogma and self-appealing paternalism". And contradictions. "The impersonal nature of living in a large city," Moore writes, "combined with the transience of much of the population, prevented the creation of a sense of communal feeling." The publisher's blurb, however, maintains that 18th-century London "was a city more intimate and communal than its modern-day counterpart". Nor is the text free of topographical slips — the churchyard of St Martin-in-the-Fields was not at the foot of Drury Lane but where the National Gallery now stands.

For anyone eager to visit in imagination the gin-shops and brothels and flash-houses of London in the 1720s, when Jonathan Wild rode out on his shady assignments "stuck round with pistols, as thick as an orange with cloves", Daniel Defoe remains the preferred guide.

## In clear sight

IT IS not surprising that both this year and last the Portuguese novelist José Saramago, whose latest novel, *Blindness*, has just been published (Harvill, £14.99; ISBN 1 85046 298 7) was a favourite to win the Nobel Prize for Literature. He writes a prose of particularly luminous intensity, brilliantly rendered into English by his regular translator Giovanni Pontiero.

The themes he chooses are sweepingly ambitious — passionate parables of a contemporary society, which he perceives as poised on the edge of breakdown. The works which made his reputation in the English-speaking world — *The Year of the Death of Ricardo Reis*, *The History of the Siege of Lisbon*, *The Stone Raft* — recall García Márquez for their epic reach and Primo Levi for their insight into the fragility of human nature under adversity.

In *Blindness*, a man going about his everyday life is struck suddenly and inexplicably blind. Blindness spreads like a contagion through the city, and in the end, though, I am not alone, I feel sure, in finding it hard to see beyond the gripping symbolism of horror to take comfort in the novel's conclusion.

LISA JARDINE

Joanna Pitman

**MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA**  
By Arthur Golden  
Chatto & Windus, £9.99  
ISBN 0 7011 6674 6

ing nets of debt and honour of the geisha lifestyle and went to live in New York, supported by her male patron. There she created a unique salon of Japanese elegance and etiquette in her apartment in the Waldorf Towers, singing, dancing and entertaining visiting Japanese clients. And it was there, shortly before she died in 1936, that she decided to break the geisha's proud code of silence and tell the intimate tale of her life.

That the story is fictional matters not. From the very



The dangers of venereal disease, from Plague, Pox and Pestilence. Ed. Kenneth F. Kiple (Weidenfeld, £25)

## Artist of the floating world

first page, Nitta's tender and entrancing story transports the reader into one of Japan's most secretive and intriguing realms of power, laying bare its extreme cruelties, its beauty, its despair and its erotic pleasures. Arthur Golden is a gentle and beautiful writer and a true original. With his powerful and fecund imagination, he has given Nitta a voice that is both innocent and seductive, leaving her to unravel her own erotic psychology in a tale that is as delicately drawn as an exquisite Utamaro wood block print. And Golden's eye for aesthetic detail gives us a wonderfully vivid picture of the highly stylised geisha life in Gion in the 1920s and 1930s.

He draws our attention to wooden geta shoeprints on fresh snow, vivid splashes of colour and symbolic design on

kimonos, carmine lips on white face paint, the creation of the fabulous geisha hairstyles. And throughout we are given an understanding of the painful gap between the geisha's "public persona" and the "real self", the unhappiness and the bitter fights for prominence in this world of extreme rivalries.

Meticulous research has been done into a world carefully and deliberately hidden from the prying eyes of outsiders. If you visit Gion today you might be lucky enough to see a geisha in full kimono regalia on her way to a party. But there are fewer and fewer willing to put up with the rigours and restrictions of geisha life. And none of them will tell their story if they are true geisha. This is an epic tale and a beautiful evocation of a rapidly vanishing world.

**THE THIEVES' OPERA**  
The Remarkable Lives of Jonathan Wild, Thief-Taker and Jack Sheppard, House-Breaker  
By Lucy Moore  
Viking, £20  
ISBN 0 670 87215 6



Moore: sidetracks over ground already well-covered

quickly went through five editions.

Although Viking has allowed her more than 30 handsome illustrations, mostly engravings by Hogarth, I rather doubt whether Lucy Moore will ring the bell quite as loudly as that. She tells the stories of two notorious criminals hanged at Tyburn in the 1720s, Jonathan Wild, a Staffordshire man, pimp and racketeer, ran London's largest criminal network. He did so behind the bold front of a "thief-taker". In 1720 he was consulted by the Privy Council on how to deal with the capital's rising crime rate; the Prince and Princess of Wales also sought his advice about a gold watch which had been stolen from one of their attendants.

A master of high-octane humbug, he had no need of spin-doctors. A newspaper

Topped and

Van







# Applicant creditors cannot obtain advantage

**In re Buckingham International plc**  
Before Mr Justice Harman  
[Judgment November 5]

The court had reached a clear conclusion that there was no power in the Insolvency Act 1986 which it ought to use to enable applicant creditors to obtain an advantage over others of their class.

Mr Justice Harman so held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division when dismissing an ordinary application brought by Louis David Holloway and Geoffrey John Mitchell, creditors of Buckingham International plc, who sought an order, inter alia, "That in the event of a winding up order being made on the petition presented to this court herein on May 21, 1996 the rights conferred on the liquidator of the company by section 183(1) of the 1986 Act in respect of writs of garnishment obtained in the State of Florida, in the United States of America, be set aside in favour of the applicants pursuant to section 183(2)(c) and/or that the applicants be at liberty to retain the fruits and/or benefit of the said writs of garnishment notwithstanding the winding up order made herein."

In September 1986 those creditors had sold their shares in a business to Leisure Time International plc which in July 1989 changed its name to Buckingham International plc. Completion was due in February 1988 but the creditors' entitlement to the purchase price was disputed by Buckingham which started proceedings against them.

The trial took place in the summer of 1996 and in July Mr Justice Ferris gave judgment in favour of the creditors for some

£3.6 million. The money was not paid and in April 1995 the banks appointed administrative receivers under their debentures.

Mr Eben Hamilton, QC and Mr Robin Hollington for the applicant creditors; Mr Gabriel Moss, QC and Mr William Trower for the respondent liquidators.

MR JUSTICE HARMAN said that Mr Holloway and Mr Mitchell were unchallengeable judgment creditors of Buckingham. However, Buckingham was under the control of administrative receivers whose duties were to pay first, debts secured by fixed charges; second, to pay preferential creditors and third, to pay the remaining debts secured by floating charges. Only after those claims had been satisfied would there be assets available for other creditors, whether judgment creditors or not.

The judgment creditors noticed that assets of Buckingham included debts due in the United States of America and obtained an order in Florida recognising the English judgment as creating a judgment debt. Thereupon they issued seven writs of garnishment in respect of seven subsidiaries of Buckingham to the parent company.

As a consequence the receivers presented a winding up petition in May 1996 and an application for the appointment of provisional liquidators. Mr Justice Knox made that order and also ordered the provisional liquidators to apply in the appropriate court in America for orders pursuant to section 304 of the United States Bankruptcy Code.

In May 1996 the provisional liquidators filed a petition in the United States Federal Bankruptcy Court which sought to restrain the

judgment creditors under section 304 of the Code from enforcing in the United States of America the English judgment which they held.

The petition was accepted to subject to an application being made to the English High Court, which was seized of the winding up proceedings of the company, for determination whether as a matter of English law the court would permit the judgment creditors to proceed to enforce the debt.

In June 1996 the ordinary application was issued which sought an order that "the rights conferred on the liquidator... by section 183(1)... be set aside in favour of the applicants pursuant to section 183(2)(c)..." In July 1996 the usual compulsory order was made winding up Buckingham and the provisional liquidators were now the liquidators.

The form of relief seemed to be very imprecise. Section 183(1) did not expressly confer rights on liquidators as suggested by the form of the ordinary application but referred to a creditor who has issued execution... has attached any debt... although it gave rise to a benefit to liquidators.

The words in subsection (1) were plainly directed to enforcement proceedings in English courts. They did not seem to be intended to affect processes in foreign jurisdictions. The words seemed simply to express the obvious conclusion of any competent lawyer reading the section.

The ordinary application then referred to section 183(2)(c) which provided that "the rights conferred... on the liquidator may be set aside by the court in favour of the creditor to such extent... as the court thinks fit."

The provision gave no guidance of any sort to the judge as to what

matters he should take into account in considering whether he "thinks fit" to "set aside rights". The whole undirected width of the subsection seemed to be unhelpful but had stood for a long time on the statute book.

That point was taken by Mr Justice Blackburne who had decided that the court had no power under section 183 to give directions about enforcement under foreign laws in foreign jurisdictions.

The Court of Appeal, for reasons which did not seem to be very clearly thought through, allowed the judgment creditors' appeal in January 1997. His Lordship got most help from Lord Justice Millett's judgment.

The court held that since the United States court had deferred to the English court and considered, plainly rightly, its decision on English law applying to an English winding up would be better made by an English court, it was wrong to reject the ordinary application altogether.

His Lordship accepted the thrust of the Court of Appeal's view and considered that the most appropriate foundation for the application of the many powers given to the court by the 1986 Act was that conferred by section 166(1) which provided that "... the court may confirm, reverse or modify the act complained of and make such order... as it thinks fit."

In order to consider what exercise the court should make of its powers to "order... as it thinks fit", if section 166(1) was the proper origin of the jurisdiction, or, if the application was truly pursuant to section 167(1) so that the court was exercising its control over the liquidators the same basic issue must arise.

Even if the relevant power was

founded upon section 183(2)(c) an almost identical issue fell for decision.

The thrust of the decision had to be based on doing justice in the sense of holding an even balance between the interests of the judgment creditors on the one hand and the interests, not of the liquidators but of the class whom the liquidators represented, that was, all the other unsecured creditors of the company in liquidation on the other hand.

If the judgment creditors were able to proceed with their writs of garnishment they would obtain payment of unsecured, although judgment debt or at least a large part of it.

The assets available to the liquidators would be largely reduced and the dividend payable in the liquidation to the other unsecured creditors would be reduced accordingly.

The competition was between creditors of the same class. It was not a competition between creditors of any class and the members of the company.

His Lordship had already announced that he proposed to dismiss the ordinary application and the reason was stated above. The argument that the liquidators' actions were manifestly unreasonable would be wholly unavailing if it were advanced, which had not been.

On the contrary, it was obvious that the liquidators were acting pursuant to a specific power expressly conferred upon them by Mr Justice Knox, a very careful judge, and that they were acting in the proper interest of the whole class whom they represented.

Solicitors: Compton, Clifford Chance.

(*Yam Importers Ltd* [1996] Ch 331) fell to be considered. Lord Justice Russell said (at p35) he found it difficult to imagine any circumstances in which the court's discretion under that section could be properly exercised.

In *re Vinat Collyer Co* [1982] ChD 442; in *re Grosvenor Metal Co Ltd* [1983] Ch 638 were of no guidance and in *re Salfair International Airways Ltd* [1991] Ch 165 the facts were wholly unlike any facts alleged on the instant application.

Finally, there was the question of exercise of the jurisdiction under section 166(1) of the 1986 Act. It was clear and well settled law that the court would only intervene to overturn a liquidator's decision in rare cases. *Re Green v York-O-Matic* [1966] 1 WLR 1430.

The Court of Appeal had held in *re Edwinstowe Ltd* [1996] 2 BCLC 389, 394 held that in the absence of fraud, bad faith or an act so utterly unreasonable that no sensible man would have done it, the court should not intervene.

There was no allegation in the instant case that the liquidators were so acting in applying to the United States Federal Court for the restraining orders on the completion of the garnishment in Florida. The argument that the liquidators' actions were manifestly unreasonable would be wholly unavailing if it were advanced, which had not been.

On the contrary, it was obvious that the liquidators were acting pursuant to a specific power expressly conferred upon them by Mr Justice Knox, a very careful judge, and that they were acting in the proper interest of the whole class whom they represented.

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# Building to edge of right of way

**Groves and Another v Minor**  
Before Lord Justice Hirst, Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Swinton Thomas  
[Judgment October 24]

There was nothing in general to restrict a property owner from building right up to the edge of a right of way. The owner of the right of way was restricted in his use of the way to the exact width of the right of way.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an appeal by the defendants, Peter and Janet Groves, from a decision of Judge Patten, QC, in Telford County Court on February 2, 1996 giving judgment for the plaintiff, Derek Minor, declaring that the plaintiff was entitled to a right of way over the whole width of Allotment, near Wellington, Shropshire, and ordering the defendants to demolish a stone porch erected on a concrete step running along the side of their house.

Mr Anthony Radelsky for the defendants; Mr Peter Gostley for the plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE MILLETT said Mr Minor owned No 11 Allotment, a two-up, two-down cottage at the end of a lane just under four metres across. Mr and Mrs Groves owned and occupied Nos 8, 9 and 10.

Along the wall of the Groves' property was a slightly raised concrete shelf about a metre wide. On that Mr and Mrs Groves had erected a stone porch.

The whole area was originally under sole ownership. Mrs Groves had bought No 9 in 1962 and by a conveyance in 1964 Mr Minor had bought No 11 and acquired the benefit of the services, rights of way, light, water and drainage, and all other rights and easements which had been and were used for

the benefit of No 11 in the same manner and to the same extent and with all necessary rights of access and entry as if there had been no severance of ownership.

On the basis of that conveyance Mr Minor had claimed a right of way across the whole width of the lane, including the concrete shelf. The Groves claimed to own the shelf and said the erection of the porch was not an interference with the proper exercise of the right of way.

There could be no doubt at all that the concrete shelf formed part of the cottages. They must have passed to the Groves when the cottages were conveyed to them between 1957 and 1964.

It was impossible to construe the conveyances as reserving any right of vehicular access over the shelf.

The shelf having been conveyed to the Groves, the original conveyance of No 11 to Mr Minor he could not have acquired any rights over the shelf because the vendor could not convey what he did not have. Even had Mr Minor acquired his cottage from the original owner, said No 9, he would not have acquired a right over the shelf.

The width of the track between the edge of the shelf and the wall opposite Nos 8, 9 and 10 was manifestly enough to accommodate vehicles whose passage could have been contemplated at the time the conveyance was made.

The occasional technical trespasses caused by permitting part of the side of a vehicle to intrude into the airspace over the shelf did not give rise to a right. The dominant owner was limited in his use of the way to the exact width of the way.

Lord Justice Hirst and Lord Justice Swinton Thomas agreed. Solicitors: Haycock, Clark, Telford; Lanyon Bowdler, Telford.

# When ombudsman has to pay costs

**Elliot and Another v Pensions Ombudsman and Others**

Where a person successfully appealed against a decision of the Pensions Ombudsman and he had participated in the appeal to assist the court in the absence of the complainants, the ombudsman should be ordered to pay the appellants' costs only to the extent that those had been increased by his participation.

Mr Justice Blackburne so held in the Chancery Division on October 31, 1997 when determining the proper order for costs following a successful appeal by two former trustees against a decision of the Pensions Ombudsman dated April 16, 1997.

His Lordship reviewed the relevant authorities and said that it was now clear, following the Court

of Appeal decision in *Selfert v Pensions Ombudsman and Others* (The Times October 3, 1997) that the fact alone that an appeal from the ombudsman was necessary and that it resulted in setting aside the relevant part of his determination was not a sufficient ground for ordering him to pay the costs.

An appellant, if he wished to have the determination set aside, had no choice but to appeal. In doing so he was bound to incur costs, most of which would be inevitable whether or not the ombudsman decided to take any part in the appeal hearing.

In those circumstances, the guiding principle must be to assess the extent to which the appellants' costs had been increased by the ombudsman's participation. The ombudsman should pay that increase but otherwise each side should bear its own costs.

# Objective test for whether tenant is in occupation

**Ujima Housing Association v Anshah**

Where an assured tenant sub-let his premises, and the evidence failed to show that he continued to occupy those premises as his only or principal home, he no longer occupied the premises as such, within the meaning of section 1(1) of the Housing Act 1988.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Roch and Mr Justice Cazalet) so held on October 17 allowing the appeal of Ujima Housing Association against the refusal by Judge Hinchin in Bow County Court on December 23, 1996, of its application for an order for possession of Flat B, 13 Elm Road, Forest Gate, London, let to the defendant, Ernest Anshah, on an assured tenancy within the meaning of section 1(1) of the 1988 Act. An order for possession of the

property within 28 days was granted.

LORD JUSTICE ROCH said that he accepted the submission that the 1988 Act introduced a stricter test for the tenant claiming protection of a statutory assured tenancy, and the Act limited the protection more narrowly.

The evidence showed the defendant was no longer in physical occupation of the flat. The onus was on him to establish he was still occupying it as his principal home. Whether he did so was not to be determined by his subjective intention or motives, but by an objective assessment of his actions and intention.

The facts, viewed objectively, showed the defendant did not have the intent necessary to preserve his occupation of the flat as his principal residence.

# Deficiency of foresight in housing applicant

**Regina v Westminster City Council, Ex parte N'Dornmadingar**

Before Mr Justice Lightman  
[Judgment October 14]

Where a person who had decided to give up his accommodation believing he had good prospects of finding employment and alternative accommodation elsewhere, but had failed to do so, claimed that in making that decision he had been unaware of his prospects and therefore of a relevant fact under 60(3) of the Housing Act 1985, he had to show that at the date he left the accommodation a factual state of affairs existed of which he had been unaware which falsified his predictions before that subsection would apply.

Mr Justice Lightman, sitting as an additional judge of the Queen's Bench Division, so held in a reserved judgment when dismissing the application of Bernadette N'Dornmadingar for judicial review of the decision of Westminster City Council that she was intentionally homeless within the

meaning of section 60 of the 1985 Act.

Mr Martin Russell for the applicant; Mr Clive Jones for the council.

MR JUSTICE LIGHTMAN said that the applicant had given up her rented accommodation in France to seek employment in England. She had made no inquiries as to her employment prospects, other than of friends, nor had she arranged any settled accommodation.

She was pregnant when she arrived in England, but had not considered the prospects of securing child care provision. She had difficulties in finding a job on account of the pregnancy.

After the child was born, she obtained the services of a carer and found employment. However, the carer left, forcing the applicant to give up her job.

The friends with whom the applicant had been living grew restive. The applicant applied to the council for accommodation. The council found that she was

intentionally homeless under section 60(1) of the 1985 Act.

His Lordship reviewed the recent authorities, which did not all speak with one voice, from which he derived, inter alia, the following principles:

1 The applicant must show that she was unaware of some relevant fact existing at the date she gave up her accommodation.

2 Whether the applicant had made inquiries into the existence of the fact was relevant to her awareness of it.

3 A fact was relevant where, had she been aware of it, the applicant would have taken it into account in deciding to give up her accommodation.

Whether she made inquiries into the existence of the fact threw light on her awareness.

4 A fact must be sufficiently clear and definite for its existence to be objectively determined.

5 Lack of, or deficiency in, foresight of the future, did not constitute unawareness of an existing fact. To establish such unawareness it was necessary to show the existence of a factual state of affairs which falsified the applicant's predictions and of which

the applicant was unaware.

Applying those principles, his Lordship said that the applicant's case, that she had made her decision to become homeless "unaware of the prospects of obtaining employment and child care in England and the prospects of continuing in employment if child care was lost" lacked the required clarity and exactness.

In particular, it did not identify of what fact existing at the relevant date she was unaware.

There had been no difference between the applicant's actual prospects as they were at the relevant date and her prospects as she had seen them.

She had encountered two foreseeable obstacles to obtaining employment, but in his Lordship's view that amounted only to events failing to turn out as the applicant had expected.

"Accordingly, section 60(3) was not brought into play and the council was entitled to conclude that she was intentionally homeless."

Solicitors: Moss Beasley & Muller; Mr Colin Wilson, Westminster.

# Scots Law Report November 20 1997 Outer House

# No sex bias in judicial pension disparity

**Stevenson v Lord Advocate**

Before Lord Kirkwood  
[Judgment July 24]

The disparity in pension provisions between the rate of pension payable on retirement to a Scottish sheriff and an English circuit judge appointed prior to March 31, 1995, did not amount to sex discrimination.

Lord Kirkwood so held in the Outer House of the Court of Session dismissing an action for decree of declarator by Walter George Stevenson that he was entitled to the same pension provisions as those to which circuit judges in England and Wales were entitled.

Miss Ann Paton, QC and Mr Archibald MacSporran for the pursuer; Mr Alexander Wylie, QC and Mr Robert McCreadie for the Lord Advocate.

LORD KIRKWOOD said that the pursuer had been appointed a sheriff of Glasgow and judge in January 1995. Prior to March 31, 1995, a sheriff in Scotland and a circuit judge in England received the same salary but there had been a marked disparity in the respective pension provisions.

While a sheriff had had to serve 20 years before he would receive his full pension, a circuit judge

would receive a full pension after 15 years.

When the pursuer retired, he became entitled to a pension amounting to 12/40ths of his annual salary. A circuit judge who had retired at the same time would have been entitled to a pension amounting to 17/40ths of his last annual salary. That disparity had been brought to an end by the Judicial Pensions and Retirement Act 1993 for all sheriffs and circuit judges appointed after March 31, 1995.

The pursuer averred that holders of the office of sheriff and holders of the office of circuit judge performed equal work within the meaning of article 119 of the EC Treaty. He further averred that a number of circuit judges at any given time since 1977 had been female and that the majority of sheriffs had been male.

He sought to draw a comparison between himself, as a male sheriff, and a female circuit judge, who received a higher level of pension than a sheriff who had been appointed prior to March 31, 1995.

It appeared from the pursuer's own averments that, so far as pension levels were concerned, the discrimination against sheriffs and in favour of circuit judges applied equally without regard to sex.

Further, all circuit judges, whether male or female, received a higher level of pension than a sheriff who had been appointed prior to March 31, 1995.

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January 1995, while there had been male and female sheriffs and male and female circuit judges, sheriffs and circuit judges had been predominantly male.

In his Lordship's opinion, in the particular circumstances, that comparison did not make it possible to draw an inference that the discrimination was based on sex.

All sheriffs appointed before March 1993, whether male or female, were entitled, on the assumption that they had served for the same period, to a higher pension.

Accordingly, while it was averred that in the case of appointments made prior to March 31, 1993 sheriffs had been discriminated against compared to circuit judges in relation to the level of pensions to which they were entitled, it was conceded that that discrimination applied equally to male and female sheriffs.

Further, all circuit judges, whether male or female, received a higher level of pension than a sheriff who had been appointed prior to March 31, 1995.

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sex. The pursuer had not relevantly averred that discrimination in relation to pension provisions was based on sex and the action fell to be dismissed.

His Lordship went on to consider whether a sheriff could properly be regarded as a "worker". It was agreed that article 119 only applied to workers.

It was agreed that a sheriff was the holder of an office, but the parties were in dispute as to whether or not a sheriff, in order to come within the definition of "worker", had also to be in employment.

Article 119 defined "pay" as meaning the consideration which the worker received in respect of his employment from his employer; see *Lawrie-Burn v Lord Bute* (1996) 1 All ER 668 (1996) ECR 221. The term "worker" in article 119 had to be interpreted broadly.

Directive No 75/117/EEC (EU 1975 L45/19) contained repeated references to "employer", "employee" and "employment" and the preamble referred to "facilitating the practical application of the principle of equality in such a way that all employees in the Community can be protected in these matters".

His Lordship would have held that the pursuer could not be a "worker" unless he established he was in an employment relationship as that term was defined in paragraph 17 of the judgment in *Lawrie-Burn*.

It was common ground that a sheriff was the holder of an office. However, it did not necessarily follow that the holder of an office could not also be employed under a contract of service and had his case been otherwise relevant, the pursuer would have been entitled to an opportunity to prove that he was a "worker".

The pursuer had invited his Lordship to refer to the European Court of Justice the question whether a sheriff was a "worker" within the meaning of article 119 and the 1975 Directive. His Lordship was not prepared to do so.

First, article 177 provided that the European Court of Justice had jurisdiction to give preliminary rulings concerning the interpretation of the Treaty, for the reasons already given, his Lordship felt able to give judgment without the need to obtain a ruling.

Second, even if his Lordship had felt it necessary to seek such a ruling until a proof had taken place and all the relevant facts had been ascertained.

Law agents: John G. Gray & Co, SSC, Solicitors to the Secretary of State for Scotland.

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## Court of Appeal

Law Report November 20 1997

## Court of Appeal

## Police cannot rely on suicide in defence

Reeves v Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis

Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justice Morritt and Lord Justice Buxton [Judgment November 10]

Where police authorities were found in breach of a duty of care to take reasonable steps to prevent the suicide of a person in their custody they could not, by invoking the defence of *novus actus interveniens* and violent non fit injuria, rely on the deceased's voluntary act to defeat a claim for damages made on behalf of his estate.

The Court of Appeal so held. Lord Justice Morritt dissenting, when allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Sheila Reeves, as joint administratrix of the estate of Martin Lynch, from Judge Sir Frank White, who sitting at the Central London County Court, had dismissed her claim for damages against the defendant, the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis.

The judge had found that: (1) The defendant police officers owed a particular duty to the deceased, because they knew he was a suicide risk, to take reasonable care to prevent him taking his life while he was in their custody.

(2) The officers had been negligent in failing to close the flap on the door of the cell where he was held, which it might reasonably have been seen would give him the opportunity to strangle himself.

(3) Apart from whether the deceased's act was *novus actus interveniens*, there was a causative link between that negligent act and his death, when he took that opportunity.

In dismissing the plaintiff's claim, the judge had upheld the defences of *novus actus interveniens*, violent non fit injuria and contributory negligence, and would have upheld a further defence based on the maxim *ex turpi causa* or public policy had it been necessary to do so.

Mr Tim Owen for the plaintiff, Mr Simon Freeland for the commissioner.

LORD JUSTICE BUXTON rejected the defendant's submission that the defence of violent non fit injuria was available to bar the plaintiff's claim. Referring to *Kirkham v Chief Constable of Greater Manchester* ([1990] QB 283), his

Lordship said that that case, which bore the factual difference that the deceased had been of unsound mind, was the subject of close analysis in argument.

Where the defence of violent non fit injuria was rejected, Lord Justice Lloyd holding that the deceased had not been truly violent, but that had he been so, it was difficult to see why the claim should not be met with a plea of violent non fit injuria.

Lord Justice Buxton, agreeing on the question of violent non fit injuria, had rejected the defence of violent non fit injuria on a second ground: that it was inappropriate where the act of the deceased relied on was the very act which the duty on the defendant required him to prevent.

Although that second ground could not be spelled out as the ratio of the *Kirkham* case it was correct and should be followed.

His Lordship's reasons for rejecting the defence as inapplicable were:

(1) In reliance on Lord Justice Buxton's second ground, that if the police's obligation was to guard against suicide, that is, to protect Mr Lynch from a deliberate act against his own life, they could not or should not be exempted from liability because that deliberate act occurred.

Were it to be the law that the act of suicide by a sane person exempted the police from liability, one would expect that to be achieved by holding there to be no duty of care in the case of a sane man.

But that was not what the judge held nor the defendant submitted. It was the existence of that duty, which contemplated the prevention by the defendant of the very act that was said to constitute the voluntary or intervening act of the prisoner which set the present case apart from those cases, such as *Chatter v United Dairies* ([1933] 2 KB 297), where the plaintiff by his own act put himself within the zone of peril which caused the accident.

(2) If the defence of violent non fit injuria was available no action would ever lie for a suicide in respect of which a duty of care had been established. The outcome of the *Kirkham* case, if it were held to uphold the availability of the defence where the deceased was sane, depended on distinguishing between those of sound and unsound mind. But the law in imposing the duty made no

such distinction, as the judge's findings demonstrated.

3 Any such distinction was inconsistent with recognition of the existence of a duty of care, and in any event would in practical terms be difficult or impossible to make.

To introduce a criterion of soundness of mind would cause difficulties in terms of evidence.

5 There was a considerable element of artificiality in applying the traditional statements setting out the elements of the defence in present circumstances: a defendant could assert the defence if he could show that the plaintiff assumed or consented to his being exposed to the risk the existence of which constituted the defendant's negligent act.

The risk here was that Mr Lynch might kill himself, but was it realistic to say that he deliberately killed himself as assumed a risk that he might do so? And how did he assume that risk? The only evidence was his actual suicide.

His Lordship rejected, as incorrect in law, the assertion of *novus actus interveniens*, that the death was caused by the deceased's own act, not by acts or omissions of the officers so as to break the necessary link between their negligence and any damage suffered by him or his representatives.

In the present context the suicide was not an intervening cause at all, or was not a new act, because the death was caused by the officers' act of negligence, the foreseeability of which was the most important part of the reason for placing the defendant under its duty in the first place.

Once that duty was admitted the approach dictated by Lord Justice Oliver in *P. Perle (Exporters) Ltd v Camden London Borough Council* ([1984] QB 342, 353C in the case of duties to protect the plaintiff from third parties necessarily applied.

On the question of contributory negligence, Lord Justice Buxton, having referred to sections 1 and 4 of the Law Reform (Contributory Negligence) Act 1945, said that it was artificial to contend that a defence to liability would rest on the performance by the deceased of the very act that the defendant was under a duty to take reasonable steps to prevent. The defence provided by the Act simply did not fit a case such as the present.

Mr Lynch did what he might have reasonably been expected to

do, given the opportunity provided to him by the defendant. It was precisely because of that expectation that the defendant had the duty towards him found by the judge and unchallenged on appeal. A plea of contributory negligence was inappropriate here and that defence had to fail.

His Lordship also rejected the submission that the defence of *ex turpi causa* was available. That defence failed on a logical ground similar to that which was fatal to the defence of violent non fit injuria.

The case was quite different from the usual application of *ex turpi causa*: here the alleged turpitude was the very thing that the defendant had a duty to try to prevent imposed by a law of negligence which itself applied to public conscience or at least public notions of reasonableness.

Referring to the guide to the defence given by Lord Justice Kerr in *Buro-Diam Ltd v Bathurst* ([1990] 1 QB 1, 35C) his Lordship said that to grant relief here did not assist or encourage either the deceased or others in his situation to continue in their disapproved conduct, and even less was that the effect of the grant of relief to his representatives.

Nor even were others in the deceased's position encouraged to act on their representatives' behalf: all that the latter recovered was their actual loss, and no element of profit or windfall benefit.

It followed that none of the defences asserted by the defendant was made out and the appeal should therefore be allowed.

LORD JUSTICE MORRITT, dissenting, accepted the defendant's assertion of *novus actus interveniens*: that the voluntary, deliberate and informed act of a plaintiff, or one whom the plaintiff represented, intended to exploit the situation created by the defendant, albeit in breach of duty, precluded a causative link between the breach of duty and the consequences of the plaintiff's action.

If the law were otherwise then those who exposed themselves to a risk would become insurers for the deliberate actions of those to whom they owed their duty of care. That would extend the law of negligence far beyond its proper scope.

He would dismiss the appeal on that ground but would also have considered that the defence of

violent non fit injuria was available to bar the plaintiff's claim.

On the question of contributory negligence, his Lordship considered that, if, contrary to his view, the deceased's act had not broken the chain of causation, the damage was sustained partly by the fault, as defined by section 4 of the 1945 Act, of the deceased and partly by that of the police.

In such circumstances, the Act applied and the court was entitled to reduce the recoverable damages to such extent as it thought just and equitable. On the facts found here the judge had not erred in his apportionment of 100 per cent contributory negligence by the deceased.

On the issue of public policy, his Lordship would not think it appropriate to brand as contrary to public policy or offensive to the public conscience an act which Parliament had so recently legalised.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, agreeing with Lord Justice Buxton that the appeal should be allowed, concluded that the defences of *novus actus interveniens*, violent non fit injuria and contributory negligence, and that based on the maxim *ex turpi causa* failed.

On the question of contributory negligence, he agreed with the judge that the definition of "fault" in section 4 was wide enough to cover the deceased's act here and to entitle the court, if it thought it right, to reduce the damages recoverable to reflect his own responsibility for the loss.

Here both the defendant and the deceased had a substantial responsibility for the fatal outcome. It would not seem appropriate to attribute all the responsibility to one party or the other.

Had his Lordship been sitting alone he would have concluded that the responsibility should be shared equally between the deceased and the defendant and that the damages recoverable by the plaintiff should be reduced by 50 per cent.

However, while adhering to his view on the applicability of the 1945 Act, to achieve consensus as to the outcome of the appeal, he would conclude that the plaintiff's claim should not be reduced to reflect any fault on the deceased's part and would allow the appeal.

Solicitors: Christian Fisher, Solicitor, Metropolitan Police.

## Sentencing for indecent assault of children

Attorney-General's Reference No 34 of 1997

Regina v Reed

Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Potts and Mr Justice Butterfield [Judgment October 16]

Serious acts of indecent assault on young children, rightly accused, strong public condemnation and parents were entitled to look to the courts for effective protection. In such cases an immediate custodial sentence was called for both to punish the offender and to deter others.

The Court of Appeal so stated when (i) granting leave to the Attorney-General to refer to the court as unduly lenient, under section 36 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988, concurrent sentences of 18 months imprisonment suspended for two years imposed by Judge Baimon at Middlesbrough Crown Court on Peter Reed who had pleaded guilty to six counts of indecent assault on three boys aged between six and 11; and (ii) substituting a sentence of 15 months immediate imprisonment.

The offender had committed the assaults by touching the genitalia of the boys under their clothing in incidents spanning a period of 2½ years while they were in his charge as friends of his own children.

Mr Nicholas Hilliard, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals for the Attorney-General, Miss Adele Williams for the defence.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that as aggravating features of the offences the Attorney-General had relied on the youth of the boys, the form the assaults had taken, their repeated nature over a substantial period and that the offender had been in a position of trust in relation to the victims.

His Lordship said that it was not a case where the element of trust was as strong as in some cases, nevertheless parents had allowed their children to visit the offender's house and to go out with him on the assumption that he would treat them properly.

Miss Williams had submitted that there were exceptional circumstances in the case: that the offender had himself suffered abuse as a child; that his marriage was undergirding difficulties at the time of the offences; that he had voluntarily sought psychiatric treatment and was responding to it.

However, those factors were by no means exceptional and were frequently encountered in cases of the present kind. There were no exceptional circumstances which justified suspending the sentence. Even if there had been the case was not one in which the suspension could be justified.

The court accepted that the sentence might well be seen as defensible if viewed from the offender's angle alone but it was obliged to bear in mind that the

present type of offences had a public as well as a private dimension.

The public rightly and strongly condemned such offences and parents of young children were entitled to look to the courts for effective protection. That meant that sentences imposed on those who had transgressed as seriously as the present offender had to involve a strong punitive element which did not end where no immediate imprisonment was imposed and he was free to continue his ordinary life.

It was necessary to mark the public condemnation of such offences by a sentence of immediate imprisonment both to punish the offender and to deter others.

If there had been an trial a contest in which liability had been denied and the offender had been convicted of the appropriate sentence would have been in the range of 30 months to three years. On a plea of guilty, the court would expect a sentence of 18 months to two years immediate imprisonment to have been imposed.

Bearing in mind and making allowance for the fact that the present case came before the court on an Attorney-General's reference which subjected the offender to the undoubted trauma of facing the sentencing process for a second time, the appropriate sentence would be one of 15 months immediate imprisonment.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Headquarters.

## Delay relevant in ordering return of abducted child

In re S (a Minor) (Child abduction: Delay)

Before Mr Justice Wall [Judgment October 16]

When exercising its discretion whether or not to order the summary return of a child to the country of habitual residence, the court was entitled to take into account the delay between the wrongful removal and the start of proceedings under the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of Child Abduction 1980.

Mr Justice Wall so held in the Family Division in a reserved judgment handed down in chambers but reported with leave on the basis that neither the parties nor the whereabouts of the child should be identified, when refusing to order the summary return of a child under articles 3 and 12 of the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of Child Abduction 1980, set out in Schedule 1 to the Child Abduction and Custody Act 1985.

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Mr Henry Steiright for the father, Mr Michael Hafford-Tanner for the mother.

MR JUSTICE WALL said that the parents, both Italian nationals,

had married in England before settling in Germany where S was born in 1985. In May 1996, without the father's knowledge, her mother brought her to England intending to settle here permanently.

They returned to Germany on a three-day visit in September 1996. Meanwhile the father had been awarded custody by the German courts in October 1996 and in June 1997 he started proceedings under article 3 of the 1980 Convention for her summary return.

The mother argued that, as a period of more than 12 months had elapsed since the admittedly wrongful removal in May, the court had a discretion under article 12 of the 1980 Convention to refuse to order summary return on the ground that the child was settled in the new environment, the brief visit to Germany not amounting to an end her status as a child who had been wrongfully removed.

His Lordship rejected the submission that wrongful removal was a continuing state of affairs governing a child's status irrespective of what happened to her subsequently: see *In re H (Minors)*.

On the facts, S satisfied the tests laid down in *In re S (a Minor) (Abduction: Custody rights)* ([1993] 2 AC 470). The second removal in September fulfilled all the article 3 criteria: each was a separate wrongful removal and accordingly the article 12 exception giving the court discretion did not apply.

However, under article 13 the court had a discretion to refuse to order summary return if the child objected and was of sufficient age and maturity for her views to be considered.

The door to discretion having thus been opened, the court could also take into account the father's unexplained delay in starting proceedings, a lapse which ran contrary to the whole philosophy of the Hague Convention which was to ensure the swift return of children who had been wrongfully removed from their country of habitual residence.

## Parental preference precedes school catchment area

Regina v Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, Ex parte Clark and Others

Before Mr Justice Collins [Judgment October 9]

Although the inclusion of catchment areas in allocating places in secondary schools was not in itself unlawful, it was unlawful to fail to ascertain parental preferences at the beginning of the process of allocating places in a particular school when the local authority was the question of which catchment area the child might fall into.

Mr Justice Collins so held in the Queen's Bench Division when granting the applications of Kira Clark, Gregory Dakin, Andrew Hickman, Jordan Ingham, Simon Jubb, Kyla Laidlaw, Kerry Manderson, Faye Pritchard, Amy Smith and Rachel Wright for judicial review by way, inter alia, of certiorari to quash the decisions of

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council and their appeal committee to refuse to admit the applicants' children to Old Hall School, Rotherham.

The local education authority had a policy of allocating places in its secondary schools through the use of catchment areas. Prospective parents who lived within the catchment area of a particular school were told by letter that their child would be allocated a place automatically.

Parents who wished to send their children to a particular school despite their living outside its catchment area were allocated remaining places by such criteria as distance from the school and whether there was a sibling already there. The applicants were all parents who lived outside the catchment area for Old Hall

School and had been refused places there for their children.

Mr James Goudie, QC and Mr Marc Beaumont for the applicants; Mr Philip Engelmann for the local authority.

MR JUSTICE COLLINS said a policy based upon catchment areas or siblings at the school was not a policy that was of itself unlawful. To have a policy which indicated what would be the priorities was not unlawful.

Mr Goudie submitted that those in the catchment area did not choose any preference. They were told that if they did nothing their child was allocated to the catchment area school. The result was that many places available at the relevant school were filled up before those expressing a true preference for the school could have their opinion considered.

His Lordship said that other local education authorities applied catchment areas as a basis for allocation to secondary schools. It was obviously convenient and might provide an element of certainty for parents but the whole essence of parental preference was that there should be such a preference expressed by the parent.

In other words, where there was a similar policy to Rotherham the parent was instructed positively to go to the headmaster of the school and indicate that he wanted his child to go to that school.

Parents were able to see the school and form a view as to whether it was the correct school for their child. It did not follow that a parent would automatically choose a school higher in the

## European Law Report

## Credit note can be used as VAT invoice

Finanzamt Osnabrück-Land v Langhorst

Case C-141/96

Before G. C. Rodríguez Iglesias, President and Judges G. E. Mancini, J. C. Molitoro de Almeida, J. L. Murray, L. Sevón, P. J. G. Kapteyn, C. Gulmann, D. A. O. Edwards, J.-P. Pissonec, G. Hirsch, P. Jans, H. Ragnemalm and M. Wathelet

Advocate General P. Leger [Opinion May 27]

A credit note issued by the recipient of goods or services could be a "document serving as an invoice" for value-added tax purposes.

A supplier who had not contested the mention in a credit note serving as an invoice, of an amount of VAT greater than that actually due, was liable to pay the amount shown.

The Court of Justice of the European Communities so held when giving a preliminary ruling on a reference under article 177 of the EC Treaty by the Bundesfinanzhof (Federal Finance Court, Germany), on questions on the interpretation of articles 211(e) and 223(a) of the Sixth Council Directive 77/388/EEC of May 17, 1977 on the harmonisation of the laws of the member states relating to turnover taxes common system of VAT: uniform basis of assessment (OJ 1977 L145 p1).

## Employer's state responsible

Danmarks Aktive Handelsrejsende, acting on behalf of Mosback v Lonmodtagernes Garantifond

Case C-117/96

Where an employee residing in one member state worked there for an employer established in another member state, it was the guarantee institution of the employer's state that was normally responsible for guaranteeing payment of the employee's outstanding claims against the employer in the event of the employer's insolvency.

The Fifth Chamber of the Court of Justice of the European Communities so held on September 17 on a reference under article 177 of the Treaty under the EC Treaty by the Eastern Regional Court, Denmark for a preliminary ruling concerning article 3 of Council Directive 80/987/EEC of October 20, 1980 on the approximation of

the laws of the member states relating to the protection of employees in the event of the insolvency of their employer (OJ 1980 L233 p23).

In the proceedings, Mrs Mosback, who lived in Denmark and had worked there for Collegen Ltd, an English company neither established nor registered in Denmark which was declared insolvent, claimed a sum representing unpaid salary, commissions and expenses from the Danish guarantee institution.

In its judgment, the Court said that article 3 required member states to take the measures necessary to ensure that guarantee institutions guaranteed payment of employees' outstanding claims resulting from contracts of employment or employment relationships on the insolvency of the employer.

The Danish institution refused to settle Mrs Mosback's claim on the ground that responsibility lay

with the institution of the employer's state, namely the National Insurance Fund.

Although the Directive contained no provision expressly stating which institution had responsibility in circumstances such as those of the case, it was clear from inter alia, the scheme of the directive that it must be the institution of the state in which, in accordance with article 2(f), either it had been decided to open proceedings for the collective satisfaction of creditors' claims, or it had been established that the employer's undertaking or business had been definitively closed down.

In practice the opening of proceedings to satisfy creditors' claims collectively, which made it possible for salary claims to be taken into consideration, was most often requested in the state in which the employer was established.

## Luxembourg

## Credit note can be used as VAT invoice

Finanzamt Osnabrück-Land v Langhorst

Case C-141/96

Before G. C. Rodríguez Iglesias, President and Judges G. E. Mancini, J. C. Molitoro de Almeida, J. L. Murray, L. Sevón, P. J. G. Kapteyn, C. Gulmann, D. A. O. Edwards, J.-P. Pissonec, G. Hirsch, P. Jans, H. Ragnemalm and M. Wathelet

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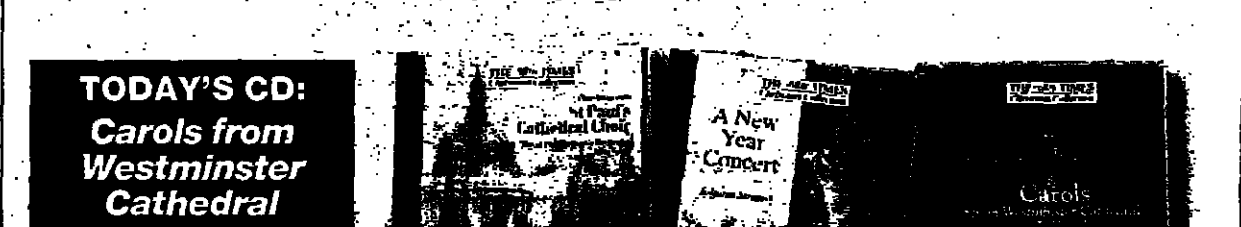
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**STEP** back in time is the theme of short breaks at Cheltenham's Hallery House Hotel. Free tickets to museums with military, motoring and musical memorabilia are included in the £190 price, together with dinner, bed and breakfast for two nights. Details: 01242 578450.

■ **ESCAPING** to the Yorkshire Moors and Dales at budget prices has been made easier with the publication of a Youth Hostels Association guide to walks between its 25 properties in the two national parks, where an overnight stay for members costs from £8.50 (adult) and £5.70 (under-18). Details: 01777 845017.

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■ **ISTANBUL** could be just the place to find exotic Christmas presents and Crusader Travel is offering a three-night "shopping special" to the city, flying from Manchester next Thursday. The £299 price includes B&B in a three-star hotel and a sightseeing tour. Packages from Gatwick next Tuesday also available. Details: 0181-744 0474.

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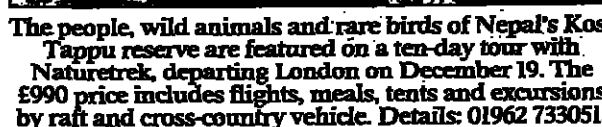
■ **DOES** Christmas in the Spanish Pyrenees sound appealing? Lakes & Mountains Holidays is offering a five-night break, with half-board, leaving Gatwick on December

23, for £449. Included is Christmas Eve lunch in France, Boxing Day in Andorra and two nights south of the mountains in Barcelona. Details: 01329 844405.

■ **THREE NIGHTS** for the price of two are available at some Best Western hotels in Ireland. Prices start from £89 a person, including B&B and return Irish Ferries crossing for a car and four passengers. Details: 0990 170000.

■ **THE SKI SLOPES** of Vosges may be less dramatic than those of the Alps but they are closer and cheaper. A four-day break at the Hotel des Vallées in La Bresse costs £150, including half-board, lift passes and ski hire. Channel crossings are extra. Details: 00333 2982 4993.

■ **VAL D'ISERE**, one of the top French ski resorts, is available at less than crippling prices from Leisure Direction Ski. A studio for four for a week in January costs £338 and similar accommodation at Le Centre, including a heated pool, costs £420. Both prices cover the Channel crossing for car and passengers. Details: 0181-324 3030.



**SRI LANKA** seems calmer after its recent troubles and tour operators, eager to encourage holidaymakers to return, are offering excellent deals. A fortnight's Sunworld hotel holiday with half-board is available from Co-op Travelcare for £329. Fly from Gatwick next Tuesday. Details: 0541 500388.

■ **HONG KONG** has been in the news all year. If you are a student or under 26 and want a taste of what post-colonial life is like there, now is the time: Campus Travel is offering return flights from Heathrow for £235 plus tax. You must leave by November 29; return tickets are valid for a year. Details: 0171-730 8111.

■ GOA without the hippies is on offer for £359 for a fortnight from Unijet. The deal involves a flight from Gatwick on November 29 and B&B at a resort half a mile from the beach. Details: 0990 336336.

■ **AN INDIAN TOUR** departing from Heathrow on December 4, and including a wildlife reserve and bird sanctuary, as well as the Taj Mahal and

Jaipur, is still available from Travelbag Adventures. Price: £795, including return flights and ten nights' B&B. Details: 01420 541007.

■ CRUISES for next year are available at 25 per cent savings if you book before the end of the month with Fred Olsen Cruise Lines. The best discounts are on *Black Watch* cruises to the Caribbean. Details: 01473 292722.

■ **St Kitts** in the Caribbean is on offer at £599 for a fortnight in a three-star hotel by the beach, including Christmas Day, but returning on Boxing Day, from Tropical Places. Details: 01342 825123.

*All prices are per person and based on two sharing a room, unless otherwise stated.*

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SPECIAL LOW FARE AIRCRAFT







# Australia to make a late decision on kicker

By Kevin Ferris

ROD MACQUEEN, the Australia coach, yesterday named an unchanged side for the meeting with Scotland on Saturday, but he admitted to a real dilemma over his choice of place-kicker for the Murrayfield international.

Having drawn with England last Saturday and outscored them by two tries to nil, MacQueen believes that his men improved substantially on their showing in losing to Argentina a week earlier and he is looking for further progress this weekend.

"Whilst we didn't feel we played to the standard we would have liked, I felt there was a definite step up from the performance in Argentina, but we are looking for another step up so we went for consistent team selection," he said.

He identified the lineup — where the Australians believed they suffered through English interference on their put-in as much as having difficulties of their own making — as an area of particular concern, however the critical problem is the goal-kicking after the woeful display of John Eales at Twickenham.

Earlier in the week the captain had indicated, half-jokingly, that he would be happy to hand over the kicking duties, but said yesterday: "It doesn't worry me. If I'm the one, I'm the one." It was hardly a convincing speech and, pressed on the matter, MacQueen admitted to reservations. "The situation does worry me, but I'm trying not to talk about it too much," he

## TEAM

AUSTRALIA: S. Larkham; B. Tane, T. Horan, P. Howard, J. Roff, E. Flaherty, G. Gregan, R. Harty, M. Foley, A. Beales, J. Langford, J. Eales, G. Flegan, B. Robinson, V. Otago.

Replacements: M. Hardy, S. Payne, D. Wilson, M. Cockburn, A. Heath, M. Caputo.

said. "We will be making a decision on the place-kicker tomorrow."

Clearly the main choice is between Eales and Joe Roff, the wing, who took over from him against England. There is, though, a third option in Elton Flaherty, the fly half. He may be preparing for only his second international, having been elevated from the back-up squad on this tour, but he knows all about kicking at Murrayfield after playing there for Australian Schools in their narrow win there three years ago.

Against a Scottish Schools side that contained James Craig, who makes his senior debut on Saturday, Flaherty was Australia's goal-kicker that day.

"I had missed three very kickable chances to put us further ahead, but Scotland scored a penalty with only a couple of minutes to go to take the lead," he said. "Then I got the chance from just inside their half with the last kick of the game and put it over." Craig's speed set up one of Scotland's tries that day.

Scotland's preparations were slightly disrupted yesterday, Alan Tait, who played for the British Isles in the summer, missing training because Mike, his seven-year-old son, had been taken to hospital on Tuesday night suffering from a twisted testicle. "We had no qualms about Alan going home. He had to be there, but his son is all right," Arthur Hastie, the team manager, said, after Tait had rejoined the party.

# Atapattu puts Sri Lanka in command

MARVAN ATAPATTU, the Sri Lanka batsman, hit his maiden Test century to put his side in charge of the first Test in Mohali, India, yesterday. The stylish right-hander, who failed to make a run in four Test innings in India in 1993, made amends with 108 here to carry the tourists to 280 for four by close of play on the opening day.

Atapattu put on 98 for the first wicket with Sanath Jayasuriya and 104 for the second with Roshan Mahanama before reaching his century an hour after tea with his thirteenth boundary.

Sri Lanka were 254 for two when India hit back with two wickets off successive balls shortly before the close. Atapattu was out leg-before to Srinath and De Silva was bowled by Kuruvilla after making 33.

Scoreboard, page 45

# David Hands wonders if the latest All Blacks are unbeatable

## New Zealand in pursuit of perfection

John Hart was asked on Tuesday night whether the New Zealand midweek XV might not just also be the second-best team in the world — behind his Saturday XV. Hart, good diplomat and shrewd psychologist that he is, skirted the issue and spoke about the different circumstances of international rugby, but there were few happier men in Huddersfield after his second-string XV had demolished Emerging England 59-22.

Emerging England? It is arguable whether the XV on Tuesday, including seven British Isles players, was that much weaker than the team that played in the international against Australia on Saturday and the England management has acknowledged that a repeat of such a performance against New Zealand at Old Trafford on Saturday will lead to an out-and-out hiding.

So where have New Zealand gone so right while the rest of the rugby-playing world struggles to catch up? Under Hart's coaching, they have played 19 internationals in the past 18 months and lost only one, on tour in South Africa on August 31 last year, after they had already clinched the series, for the first time on South African soil — yet they are benefiting from more than just the association of visionary coach and talented players. The All Blacks are where they are now in part because of where they have been over the past hundred years.

It is hard to overemphasise the depth to which rugby union penetrates life in New Zealand. It is a national expression and has been since the first All Blacks left their shores, around the turn of the century, and discovered that they could make the rest of the world take notice. Every new All Black is conscious of the weight of history on his shoulders, of the need not just to play for his country but to play well for his country.

For many years, that meant a conservative style, in which victory was all-important and which reflected the national psyche in New Zealand — but not in recent times. In 1991, they suffered what they regarded as failure, dismissal from the World Cup at the semi-final stage and the knowledge that their image was drastically inferior to that of their neighbours, Australia. Hart, as co-coach to Alex Wyllie, witnessed that and, although he did not

become the national coach until another five years had passed, it pained him.

In between came the Laurie Mains era, which laid much of the groundwork for the present side; Sean Fitzpatrick came of age as an international captain then, the sport embraced professionalism and the southern hemisphere created a competition that is as near as its contestants can make it to international standard — the Super 12 tournament. The period of introspection that followed 1991 took time to bear fruit, but the present squad are the direct beneficiaries.

Their failure to win the World Cup in 1995 was, perhaps, the final spur. They played the best rugby of that competition, but they did not win it and, because New Zealanders will always analyse failure before they congratulate themselves on their success, they were prepared to leave even less to chance than before. Hart's analytical approach has encompassed the strategy of the game and the individuals who play it.

Mastery of the basic skills has been fundamental to the All Blacks and professionalism has given them even greater opportunity to hone those skills and their fitness levels. Hart, though, insists that everything hinges upon the intensity with which they prepare for and play the game. "We are trying to play a game we can all enjoy and, at the same time, find the consistency which is the hallmark of all good sides," he said.

He compares his team now to the great Auckland sides that he coached and believes that his players are "getting on top of" the 80-minute game. In every international this season, there have been complaints that New Zealand have either started poorly or finished poorly; there were few such complaints at Huddersfield, where so proud a performance must leave players like Scott McCleod, so frequently a replacement, Mark Robinson and Todd Miller wondering what else they must do to attain international rugby.

The two 22-year-olds stamped class over the evening, Miller scoring three tries from full back; yet they must wait in line behind the two players who are the best in the world in their positions — Justin Marshall, at scrum half, and Christian Cullen. Sometimes, it is hard to be an All Black. It is harder still playing against them.



'In 1991, they suffered what they regarded as failure... Hart witnessed that'



McCleod, another on the All Blacks' fringes, takes up the charge at Huddersfield

NEW ZEALAND'S RECORD UNDER JOHN HART									
Test matches	1	W	1	L	0	Drawn	0	Not played	0
Test points	145	145	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Test tries	14	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Test conversions	14	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Test drop goals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Test penalties	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Test full backs	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Test scrum halves	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Test wing thirds	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Test centres	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Test forwards	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Test replacements	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Test total	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

## WHAT SETS THE ALL BLACKS APART? THE EXPERTS GIVE THEIR VERDICT



### Jack Rowell

England coach 1994-97, and beaten by All Blacks in 1995 World Cup semi-final

"In 1994 I was talking about the need to develop interactive rugby. Once the set-piece was over, every player had to be multi-skilled. This is the type of rugby New Zealand are into. It is all underpinned by massive fitness, pace and skill. I used to talk of the All Blacks having 15 bushelbaskets."

mentally and physically. Sometimes they are able to make the game look like a non-contact sport. In their ruthless pursuit of excellence they divided up their country for the Super-12, all to ensure their best players competed at the top level. John Hart also inherited a squad from Laurie Mains that is still together. Hart has just added his own dimension. By the end of last year England had the defence organised and had developed a style of attacking play and I felt we could have gone forward from there."



### Greg Smith

Australia coach 1995-97, who suffered five successive defeats by the All Blacks

"I think New Zealand revolve around their right five and the strength of a player like Frank Bunce. Bunce is not such an obviously innovative player as some but in his own way, he is. People find it very difficult to put him on the ground. That strength is supported by brilliant

individuals such as Cullen and Marshall, and they have so much depth that someone like Andrew Mehrtens, who I rate very highly, has not played much this year. The fitness levels and conditioning of the All Blacks allows them to turn out unchanged XV's match after match. They are not unbeatable but their quality demands that opponents achieve some degree of ascendancy early on. If you make a mistake they will punish you, and when you play them as often as we do, it can become intimidating."



### Geoff Cooke

England manager 1987-94, and victorious against the All Blacks in 1993

"Clive Woodward has a nightmare on his hands. The problems of putting out scratch teams were horribly exposed on Tuesday night. The only solution is to put out our best club sides, such as Warrington and Leicester, against tourists. At least they are organised

units. New Zealand are a very, very good side. Every player understands his role on the field and they are every more we spent weeks planning their downfall. That game at Twickenham was a one-off. We had a limited game-plan and we stopped New Zealand in their tracks. We can do it occasionally but we have got to get into the situation where we can do it consistently. Realistically I would expect us to compete. At the moment England lack maturity. It will be a fantastic effort if we get close to them."



### Gary Teichmann

S Africa captain whose side was the last to beat New Zealand, in August 1996

"You have got to deny them the ball. If there is one side that can keep the ball for a long period of time, it's the All Blacks. You have to cut your mistakes down to a bare minimum. They have got so much confidence in winning. You only get that when you have been together for so long."

Rugby is such a team game that you have to rely on a lot of other people. An international is an international thought, and on their day England can beat any side. If you do the basics properly, get possession and make them do the defending, then you can win. What they are good at is being able to pick up the pace of the game when they want to. They work hard at their game, they have a good structure and have been fortunate with injuries. The senior guys have just kept going."



### Brian Ashton

Coach of the Ireland side that suffered a record defeat last Saturday

"Against sides of this calibre, you have got to be switched on tactically for the full 80 minutes because the game can slide away from you so very, very quickly. They are relentless, powerful men, very dynamic. They put us on the back foot. Their ball retention is superb. They are constantly

going forward, which makes it easy for support players to knock off anyone trying to interfere with the ball. They are the best side in the world, the best I have ever seen. In the second half at Lansdowne Road, one could see all their old attributes: power, pace, vision. They have footballers all over the field. In one 15-minute period we touched the ball just twice. They play with remarkable patience and control, just waiting for defences to run out of numbers. I have no idea how England will get on; I have no idea how they are playing."



### John Mitchell

England assistant coach; toured with All Blacks in 1993

"The Super 12 tournament has taken players to another level. Players are involved in that for three months, then the All Blacks are together for seven weeks, then they play in the national provincial championship, all of which demands good football on a regular basis. These guys didn't need money to make them professional. But good as they were, they have become even better and the New Zealand union has contracted the best 150 of them to play the highest possible standard of regional rugby. We have only half that number of players in England, who are not even playing intense club rugby regularly. We can teach players good habits here but at the moment we haven't got the playing structure whereas in New Zealand they have."

## SPORT IN BRIEF

### Moorcroft rescue plan wins approval

ATHLETICS: David Moorcroft's plan to rescue British athletics from its financial problems and safeguard its future was accepted yesterday by the United Kingdom Sports Council. It has also been approved by the insolvency practitioners who were called in last month with the British Athletic Federation (BAF) facing a deficit of £530,000.

Details will be outlined next week, but Moorcroft's plan will involve setting up a small project group, whose task will be to establish a new structure for the sport in Britain.

Moorcroft, who took over the role of BAF chief executive before the scale of the problems were evident, yesterday met Sir Rodney Walker, the Sports Council's acting chairman, and Roger Eady, the council's performance development director. "David's plans have been warmly welcomed by all parties," a council spokesman said.

### England ticket

COMMONWEALTH GAMES: The England team for the 1998 Games will be commercially sponsored for the first time. Vimto, the soft drinks company, is giving £100,000 to support England at "the friendly games" in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in September.

The quadrennial event will attract 6,000 competitors from 60 countries in 15 sports, with England sending 334, the biggest squad in the 68 years of the Games. Next year there will be competitions for the first time in traditional Commonwealth sports, such as cricket, hockey, rugby, netball, squash and tennis bowling.

### Taylor's choice

CRICKET: Mark Taylor, the Australia captain, said yesterday that he would not hesitate to join a players' strike if the country's first-class cricketers voted for industrial action in pursuit of a pay claim. On the eve of the second Test against New Zealand at the WACA Ground in Perth, Taylor confirmed his total support for the Australian Cricketers' Association.

"I'm obviously captain of the Australian side but I'm a member of the ACA and if the numbers stacked up that way I would go on strike," he said.

### Merle returns

RUGBY UNION: Olivier Merle, the giant France lock forward who scored a try when he led a second-half revival after coming on as a replacement in the 36-32 defeat by South Africa in Lyons last week, is back in the side to play the Springboks in the second international at the Parc des Princes on Saturday.

Merle's return means that Fabien Pelous sits on the replacements' bench. The other change in the side sees the Brive three-quarter, Laurent Vandenhove, replace Laurent Laffont on the right wing. Vandenhove's last try was in the 29-15 defeat by Australia in Sydney in June.

## CRICKET: TOURING TEAM'S HOPES OF AVOIDING DEFEAT DEPEND ON LARA IN FIRST TEST

# West Indies' decline gathering pace

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN PESHAWAR

FROM time to time there comes a moment when a team's decline is revealed in a way that leaves no room for doubt. It came here shortly after lunch on the third day, as the Pakistan innings entered its tenth hour with West Indies helpless to deny them a healthy lead, which eventually reached 230.

Rawl Lewis, a leg spinner of no great means, came round the wicket to Inzamam, who had spent his entire innings with a runner. Hobbling about on his one good leg, he had still driven Lewis for two mighty straight sixes, to compensate for the runs — as many as 20 — that he had passed up as he managed the strike.

With the field spread out, and a mediocre wrist spinner directing the ball a foot outside leg stump, West Indies were doing no more than clinging on until they had to bat again.

After all the years they have been battered and then into submission with their fast bowlers, it had come to this. And a pitiful spectacle it made. Unable to bat or bowl with the necessary skill or discipline, they have failed utterly to disguise the wretched state of their cricket. Had Inzamam reached his century, the humiliation would have been complete. Instead, he was eight runs short when Walsh closed the innings with his fifth wicket. Walsh had dropped Inzamam on five, almost exactly 24 hours before.

As others have found, this is an unforgiving place to play. Bishop was driven to distraction when Said Shah, the local umpire, refused to give Inzamam out leg-before on 40. It was a good shout, rather better than the one that led to

Campbell's dismissal on the first morning, when Shah was feeling more indulgent. Bishop stood before him, aghast, begging to know how the ball could have missed the wicket.

It would be wrong to suggest that West Indies deserved the breaks. Their bowling, led manfully by Walsh, who cannot have in him many more days like this, is unconvincing on good pitches. Lewis is a tyro, Hooper a lightweight and Simmons a mere doer. Ambrose, on whom so much depends, left the field without a wicket. There is not a lot left in him, either.

Starting the day on 246 for five, Pakistan soon lost Azhar but Mo'in Khan survived a life that Lara granted him to complete a hard-fought 50. When he went, and Arshad followed, West Indies could still have restricted the lead to

160 or thereabouts. Inzamam, supported by Nazir and Mushtaq, enabled the last two wickets to realise 77 runs.

It was quite an achievement for Inzamam to bat for 4½ hours with an injured left foot, but West Indies seemed in no hurry to see the back of him. Simmons, running back from slip, missed another chance towards the end of the innings, by which stage an air of resignation had set in. It deepened when Williams was out to the new ball, and Chandernagor fell to Mushtaq.

However, while there is Lara, there is hope for West Indies, who had reached 99 for two at the close. He ended the day in scalding form, jumping out of his crease to lift Arshad for three boundaries in an over, and when Mushtaq replaced the off-spinner, forcing three more through cover. He must make a big hundred, a double even, today.

## SCOREBOARD

WEST INDIES: First Innings 151	
(Mushtaq Ahmed 5-33)	
Batters	
S C Williams b W Walsh	3
S C Campbell not out	34
S D Chandernagor c Iqbal b Mushtaq	16
B G Lara not out	16
Extras (lb 5, nb 7)	12
Total (246)	99
Fall of wickets: 1-14 (2.58)	
BOWLING: W Walsh 8-4-20-1, Shafiq Nazir 3.5-0-17-0, Arshad Mahmood 4-1-24-0, Mushtaq Ahmed 5-3-33-1, Said Khan 6-2-18-0	
PAKISTAN: First Innings	
Said Anwar c Lara b Hooper	65
Aamir Sohail c Lara b Walsh	4
Iqbal Ahmed c Hooper b Bishop	6
Mohammad Wasim b Walsh	29
Inzamam-Ul-Haq not out	92
Mo'in Khan c Walsh b Bishop	59
Wasim Akram c Williams b Hooper	4
Azhar Mahmood c Hooper b Walsh	16
Shahid Nazir b Walsh	18
Mushtaq Ahmed b Walsh	12
Extras (lb 2, nb 7, nb 11, w 2)	22
Total (152)	381
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-10 (2.14), 2-14 (2.58), 3-27 (3.50), 4-34 (4.13), 5-37 (5.25), 6-34 (5.54), 7-37 (6.37), 8-34 (7.13), 9-34 (7.54), 10-34 (8.37)	
BOWLING: Ambrose 25-4-76-0, Walsh 25-9-76-3, Bishop 25-7-76-3, Simmons 2-0-0-0, Lewis 24-6-55-0, Hooper 20-7-40-2	
Umpires: D Shepherd (England) and Said Shah (Pakistan)	

# Hughes book award hits the critics for six

By Simon Wilde

SIMON HUGHES, the former Middlesex and Durham bowler, won the William-Hill sports book of the year yesterday with his entertaining and candid account of life as a county cricketer, *A Lot of Hard Yacka*, published by Headline. It is the first time a cricket theme has won the prize, which is in its ninth year.

Hughes's success is unlikely to have a similar impact on cricket writing as Nick Hornby's did on football after he won the 1992 award, but still it should be welcomed.

There is a long-standing and widespread supposition that cricket literature is among the finest in all sport. However, John Gaustad, the chairman of the adjudicating panel, had said this week: "Many cricket books are traditional and hidebound. I think its market is in danger of

dying." If Hughes's example is followed, that outcome should be averted. He was inspired to tell his tale by a magazine article three years ago calling for someone to give cricket "the Nick Hornby treatment".

Hughes, who had been scribbling observations of matches since the age of 11, realised he had the material. "I was something of an outsider and observer, who spent most of his career fielding on the boundary," Hughes said. "It gave me the chance to hear what spectators really wanted to know."

Richard Williams's forensic study of Formula One, *Racers*, published by Viking, won the second prize. The award for the best cover went to Richard and Fiona Bailey for their photographic collection, *The Road to Glory: Portraits of Britain's Paralympians* (Quiller Press).



# SPORT IN BRIEF

## Moorcroft rescue plan wins approval

**ATHLETICS** David Moorcroft's plan to rescue British athletics from its financial problems and rebuild its future was approved by the British Athletics Federation on Tuesday. The plan, which was developed by Moorcroft, a former international athlete and now a sports management consultant, involves a series of measures to reduce costs and increase income. It includes a reduction in the number of events, a focus on the most profitable events, and a plan to increase the number of sponsors. The plan also includes a proposal to create a new governing body for British athletics, which would be responsible for the day-to-day running of the sport. The plan was approved by a vote of 10 to 2.

## England ticket

**COMMONWEALTH GAMES** The British Olympic Association has announced that it will commercially sponsor the first time a team of British athletes will compete in the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in September. The team will consist of 10 athletes, including three world champions. The B.O.A. will also be responsible for the team's travel and accommodation. The team will be led by coach Peter Dinkley.

## Taylor's choice

**CRICKET** Ian Taylor has been named as the first choice to replace the late Ian Botham as captain of the England cricket team. Taylor, who has captained the team on two occasions, was named as the first choice by the England and Wales Cricket Board. Taylor is currently a batsman for Lancashire. He has scored 1,000 runs in 100 first-class matches.

## Merle returns

**REUGY UNION** Former world champion Merle has returned to the sport of reuhy union. Merle, who won the world championship in 1995, has signed a contract with the reuhy union team. Merle is currently a reuhy union player for the team. He has scored 1,000 points in 100 matches.

## Book award

**CRITICS** The book award has been won by the book. The book is a collection of stories by the author. The book has been praised by critics for its quality and style. The book is currently available in paperback.

# Pub betting among BHB's proposals to bolster finances

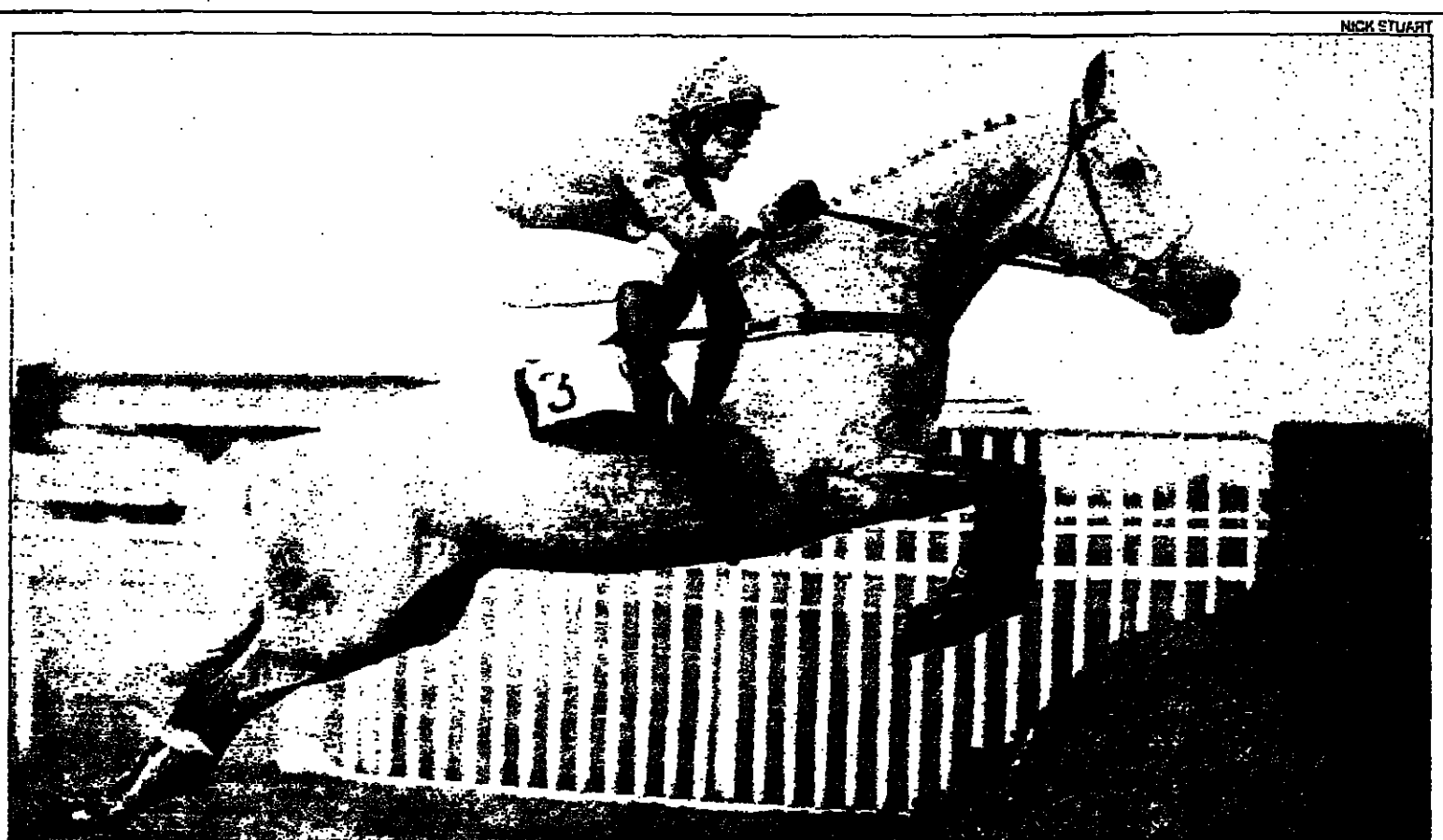
By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

A BLUEPRINT for funding racing in the 21st Century will be unveiled by the Government today. The plan, which is part of a broader strategy to reform the betting industry, includes a proposal to allow pub betting. The plan also includes a proposal to allow betting on horse racing from pubs. The plan is part of a broader strategy to reform the betting industry, which includes a proposal to allow betting on horse racing from pubs. The plan is part of a broader strategy to reform the betting industry, which includes a proposal to allow betting on horse racing from pubs.

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## Suny Bay warms up Hennessy market

By CHRIS McGRATH

RACING offers no spectacle quite so vivid as that of a greyhound racing, illuminating the dark of winter with the raw brightness of his energy, athleticism and power. At Haydock Park, yesterday, Suny Bay produced a performance that reflected the dramatic image struck over recent seasons by Desert Orchid and One Man, making all the running under Graham Bradley in the Edward Hamner Chase.

It was his first start since being beaten 25 lengths by Lord Gyllene in the Martell Grand National back in April. In the peculiar circumstances, his connections had felt some obligation to let him run that day — but the key to Suny Bay is ground rather than speed.

laboured onward to take second, beaten 11 lengths, with See More Business regrouping to creditable effect another seven lengths away. The rest were well beaten. "He's up there with some of those good horses I rode years ago," Bradley said. "I've never seen a horse like Wayward Lad. He's an ideal type for the Hennessy Gold Cup — he jumps, stays and gallops. He jumped from fence to fence, kept quickening up. Horses by his sire, Roselier, get better with age."

He said: "Where he goes depends on the ground. He could go for the Hennessy, or the Rehearsal Chase the following weekend, and then the Welsh National." Brooks himself suggested that Newbury was very much in mind. "This is the route we took when he was two years ago," he said. "One of the reasons we ran at Haydock, rather than at Aintree on Saturday, is that — if things went right — it would give us an extra three days. I thought him much improved this year, by the way he has been working, and was unusually confident today for a normally pessimistic trainer."

Those infected by his optimism must find the Tote's offer of 9-2 a favourite for the Hennessy interesting. The Tote also has Suny Bay at 6-1 for the National, and as low as 12-1 for the Gold Cup, while Coral offers 12-1 for Aintree, and 20-1 for Cheltenham.

## Peintre Celebre wins top award

PEINTRE CELEBRE, the outstanding winner of the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe in October, was named as the Cartier Horse of the Year at a gala dinner in London last night (Richard Evans writes).

The Cartier racing awards are now in their seventh year and the special award of merit was presented to Peter O'Sullivan, who retires as the BBC television's racing commentator after the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Newbury on Saturday night.

Celeric, whom Pat Eddery partnered to capture the Gold Cup at Royal Ascot, was voted stayer of the year and the award was received by Christopher Spence, his owner-breeder.

CARTIER AWARDS: Peintre Celebre (Horse of the Year), Embassy (3-Y-O filly), Naar (2-Y-O colt), Ryafan (3-Y-O filly), Peintre Celebre (3-Y-O colt), Celeric (stayer), Royal Applause (sprinter), Pilsudski (older horse).

## WINCANTON

**THUNDERER**  
1.20 Eshken  
1.20 Mrs Em  
2.20 COOL GUNNER (nap)  
Timekeeper's top rating: 3.50 DISTANT STORM.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

## 1.20 GREAT WESTERN NOVICES HURDLE

(£3,725; 2m 6f) (14 runners)  
1. 14.02.94 RELATIVE CHANGE 11 (6) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
2. 14.02.94 RELATIVE CHANGE 11 (6) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
3. 14.02.94 RELATIVE CHANGE 11 (6) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
4. 14.02.94 RELATIVE CHANGE 11 (6) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88

RELATIVE CHANGE, one of the few to start this trip, can win again

## 1.50 BFB TATTERSALLS (IRELAND) MARES NOVICES CHASE

(£3,375; 2m) (8 runners)  
1. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
2. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
3. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
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CAMILLAS LEGACY, 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88

## 2.20 TOTE BETTING SHOP HANDICAP HURDLE

(£3,415; 2m) (4 runners)  
1. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
2. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
3. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
4. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88

CAMILLAS LEGACY, 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88

## 2.20 TOTE BETTING SHOP HANDICAP HURDLE

(£3,415; 2m) (4 runners)  
1. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
2. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
3. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
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(£3,415; 2m) (4 runners)  
1. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
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4. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88

CAMILLAS LEGACY, 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88

## GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 6000 TIMES (F-M) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
102 113143 6000 TIMES (F-M) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
103 113143 6000 TIMES (F-M) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
104 113143 6000 TIMES (F-M) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88

## 2.50 HAMILTON LITESTAT HANDICAP CHASE

(£7,035; 3m 11f) (8 runners)  
1. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
2. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
3. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
4. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88

CAMILLAS LEGACY, 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88

## 3.20 TOTE BOOKMAKERS NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE

(£3,375; 2m) (8 runners)  
1. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
2. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
3. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
4. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88

CAMILLAS LEGACY, 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88

## 3.50 BATONOME NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,248; 2m) (8 runners)  
1. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
2. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
3. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
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CAMILLAS LEGACY, 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88

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CAMILLAS LEGACY, 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88

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1. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
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1. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
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3. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
4. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88

## YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

**Haydock Park**  
Going: good  
1.10 (2m) hndc, 1. Hill Farm Blues (0) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
2. 1.10 (2m) hndc, 1. Hill Farm Blues (0) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
3. 1.10 (2m) hndc, 1. Hill Farm Blues (0) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
4. 1.10 (2m) hndc, 1. Hill Farm Blues (0) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88

## 12.55 HARBURY SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE

(£1,639; 2m 3f) (15 runners)  
1. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
2. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
3. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
4. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88

CAMILLAS LEGACY, 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88

## 1.30 ETHELFLEAS MOUNT HANDICAP CHASE

(£1,639; 2m 3f) (15 runners)  
1. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
2. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
3. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
4. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88

CAMILLAS LEGACY, 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88

## 2.00 ENMA PHIPPS FIRST BIRTHDAY HANDICAP HURDLE

(£3,010; 2m 3f) (15 runners)  
1. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
2. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
3. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
4. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88

CAMILLAS LEGACY, 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88

## 2.30 VARLEY HIBBS NOVICES CHASE

(£3,782; 2m 4f) (11 runners)  
1. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
2. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
3. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
4. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88

CAMILLAS LEGACY, 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88

## 3.00 SHIPSTON HANDICAP CHASE

(£5,613; 3m) (14 runners)  
1. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
2. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
3. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
4. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88

CAMILLAS LEGACY, 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88

## 3.30 ASHSTONE NOVICES HURDLE

(£2,749; 2m) (22 runners)  
1. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
2. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
3. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
4. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88

## WARWICK

**THUNDERER**  
1.10 Strong John, 1.40 Chorus Line, 2.10 Tribune, 2.40 A'Barley Street, 3.00 Galen, 3.40 Stylish Interval.

GOING: GOOD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

## 1.10 JOHN MADE HIND TRUCK SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE QUALIFIER

(£1,842; 2m 1f) (5 runners)  
1. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
2. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
3. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
4. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88

CAMILLAS LEGACY, 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88

## 1.40 BOWDEN ELECTRICALS HANDICAP CHASE

(£2,749; 2m 1f) (5 runners)  
1. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
2. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
3. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
4. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88

CAMILLAS LEGACY, 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88

## 2.10 W A STEPHENSON MEMORIAL NOVICES CHASE

(£5,686; 2m 1f) (10 runners)  
1. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
2. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
3. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
4. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88

CAMILLAS LEGACY, 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88

## 2.40 COLIN MACANNE MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE

(£2,749; 2m 1f) (10 runners)  
1. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
2. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
3. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
4. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88

CAMILLAS LEGACY, 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88

## 3.10 REGAL SUNDERLAND STADIUM NOVICES HURDLE

(£2,285; 2m 3f) (12 runners)  
1. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
2. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
3. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
4. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88

CAMILLAS LEGACY, 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88

## 3.40 SEDGEFIELD PADDOCK BOOKMAKERS HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,355; 2m 1f) (8 runners)  
1. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
2. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
3. 14.02.94 CAMILLAS LEGACY 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88  
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CAMILLAS LEGACY, 267 (R) (Mrs S Douglas-Pennant) J King 9-11-5 A P McCoy 88

## RACELINE







# Kewell ready for lead role in real-life drama

Neil Harman finds a precocious talent preparing for the full glare of the spotlight

There is definitely a hint of Erinsborough High about him: even the name, Harry Kewell, is like something from the imagination of a soap opera writer. However, as we may discover in the World Cup finals next summer, this is no cranky, adolescent Aussie in short trousers.

He is Australia's answer to Paul Scholes — Kewell the Jewel — with a left foot so precious that Terry Venables and George Graham should kneel and give thanks each night that they had the good fortune to stumble across it.

The legs were stretched out in business class this week as the new phenomenon of Leeds United flew home to join Venables and the Australia squad to prepare for the two matches in his fledgling career — the World Cup qualifying play-off games against Iran — that will decide the last of the 32 places in the finals in France.

It is a far cry from the cramped economy flight that he took from Sydney in 1994 in search of the glamour of the FA Caring Premiership. From the moment he arrived as a 16-year-old from the New South Wales Academy, Leeds knew that they had unearthed a player who could feature prominently in the ten-year plan that was the cornerstone of Howard Wilkinson's strategy, until he was reminded that results in the short term counted for more.

When Wilkinson was dismissed as Leeds manager in September last year he was fortified by the knowledge that he had put into place a structure designed to produce talent as good as anywhere else in the country. At Manchester United, Alex Ferguson had already begun to cast anxious glances over his shoulder.

The emergence of Kewell this



Kewell will become a sporting celebrity in Australia if the national team manages to overcome Iran to secure a place in the finals of the World Cup

season has confirmed the wisdom of Wilkinson's forward planning. He was a member of the team that won the FA Youth Cup last season and many of his former teammates are now waiting to follow him into the first team.

"A gem of a player," Ian McNeill, the Leeds chief scout, said as he watched Kewell undergo some private tuition on his right

foot on one of those days when the chill starts in the soles of your shoes and keeps on rising. "I don't think I've seen better at his age."

Graham would have given more teenagers their head last season had his priority not been to ensure that Leeds maintained their Premiership status, but the urge has become irresistible now. Kewell, 19, is the liveliest of the group and

his dedication to his career is underlined by the way in which he accepted that he would be restricted to one trip home a year.

"There was no point worrying about it or wishing I could go back to Sydney more often," he said. "I had to get it set in my mind that I'd be away for a long spell. I knew I had to make sacrifices if I wanted to make it in England."

Paul Hart was in charge of youth development under Wilkinson before he left to try to establish a similar formula at Nottingham Forest. His faith in Kewell is unshakable. "From the moment he stepped off that plane, Harry knew what he wanted," Hart said. "He's never looked back and I believe he is the best of a group which has the potential to become

the best young players in the country.

"He has a great self-confidence, he won't be budged from doing what he thinks is right for his career. Physically, he was slightly ahead of the rest in the youth team and I'm not surprised how he's emerged. He has a magnificent change of pace and a great left foot as he showed against Derby a

couple of weekends ago. It was difficult for me to leave these kids behind because I know they will all make it. I'm proud to have shared in five years of their progress at Leeds because I know how good they are. Harry could be a sensation in the World Cup."

Kewell is grateful for Hart's influence. "He was always pushing me that bit further and never let me settle," he said. "But I have always been a level-headed person. I don't get carried away with anything and, when I scored against Derby, the feeling lasted for a couple of seconds and then it was back to business."

Kewell is first in, last out of training and lives with a local family in Collingham, sharing with three Irish players, Stephen MacPhail, youth team captain last season, Alan Maybury and

**'His emergence has confirmed the wisdom of Wilkinson's forward planning'**

Damien Lynch. He may have seniority in terms of first-team appearances, but Kewell has not been granted the run of the place and still has to share a room.

The publicity, Kewell insisted, will not go to his head but it will be difficult to deflect the attention if Australia qualify for France on Saturday week. The calls to the Leeds training ground from Sydney have been increasing. Australian journalists keen to discover more about this young man who could have such a bewitching influence on the growth industry that is Australian soccer. He prefers to keep a low profile, which may be impossible if Australia secure their World Cup place in front of an 80,000 crowd at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on November 29. That will be real drama, no soap required.

## SAILING

### Dalton left at the mercy of sea change

EDWARD GORMAN  
SAILING CORRESPONDENT

THE top half of the Whitbread Round the World Race fleet was making good progress towards the second-leg stopover at Fremantle yesterday with the leader, Swedish Match, having fewer than 1,500 miles to sail.

With a steady, south-westerly air flow driving the boats at average speeds of up to 18 knots, the laggards can only hope that the high-pressure system of Western Australia will give them a chance to catch up.

The second leg is proving a disappointment for Grant Dalton in *Merit Cup*, one of the pre-race favourites, which started well with a second place in leg one. Dalton is in seventh position and admitted: "They [the other boats] are embedded in a strong south-westerly flow making huge mileage and going approximately 4-5 knots faster than us. It is most unlikely that we can improve unless there is a dramatic change in the weather."

Meanwhile, Paul Cayard, skipper of the first-leg winner, *EF Language*, should be content with his position of fourth, which would make him the overall leader after two legs, just two points ahead of Knut Frostad's yacht, *Innovation Kvaerner*.

*Silk Cut*, skippered by Lawrence Smith, of Great Britain, continues to hold fifth place, 675 miles behind Swedish Match.

## Oxfordshire woman takes fast lane to place in line-up for RAC Rally

### Heijink overtaken by desire to drive

Elissa Heijink has a surname that sounds like she might enjoy a daring, boisterous kind of sport. No surprise, then, that the delivery driver from the Oxfordshire town of Witney is gearing up to race a 1300cc Skoda Felicia in the Network Q RAC Rally this weekend.

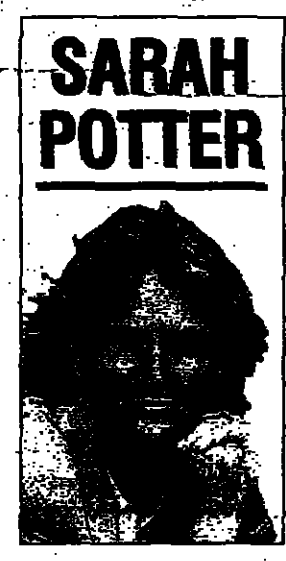
It all started a year ago when her boyfriend and parents bought her an unusual 24th birthday present. The Find a Lady Rally Driver competition, run by the Silverstone Rally School, was advertised on local radio. No previous rally experience was allowed and 110 women paid to have a go at this male-dominated sport. "They knew I would love it," Heijink said.

"My boyfriend, Steve, races motorbikes and I'm happiest when I'm behind the wheel."

Heijink won her dream prize: a rally year competing in the Skoda Trophy. With all entry and travel fees covered — including three trips abroad — use of the car and back-up from a service crew, its value was about £25,000.

"The judges went on lots of things," Heijink said. "How we got on with people and what we were like in front of camera was considered as important as our driving technique."

She had not driven a Skoda before and, despite accolades such as best budget car in *What Car* magazine, she shared the view that the Czech motor lacked "street cred". Heijink now knows this to be unfair. "If you've never driven one, you'd be surprised," she said. "It's now part of the Volkswagen Group, so maybe its road image will change."



SARAH POTTER



Heijink moved from van driver to the RAC Rally in a year

The Felicia I drive hasn't let me down once."

The comedian, Jo Brand, has also entered the RAC in a Peugeot GTI, and gets good mileage from jokes about unfashionable cars, which Skodas certainly were. Heijink, though, has now competed in, and finished, six Skoda Trophy rallies. She came sixteenth out of 25 and won the novices' trophy. Anna Tait was the only other woman in that competition and she too will drive in the RAC.

Although Heijink missed the French rally through work commitments, she has sped through the less hospitable countryside that Scotland, Wales, Ireland and Belgium have to offer, experiencing fear as well as thrills.

"Early on in the season, I remember going round a dusty, slippery forest road, looking to my right and seeing nothing. It was just a sheer drop. I wondered what I was

doing it for, but the adrenalin kicked in and took over."

Confidence to overcome doubt at high speed has partly come from her co-driver, Richard Taunt, a director of the Silverstone Rally School. He shouts the pace notes and trust is vital. "Sometimes it can be like leading a blind person, because you can't see where the road goes. A picture of what's ahead comes from his instructions," she added.

It seems such a pity that, just as Heijink is beginning to excel at powering past waving crowds wrapped in wetlines and waterpuffs, she might have to stutter to an unwelcome stop. If a sponsor does not come forward soon, she will not be able to afford to continue.

"I'm treating this like it's my last rally," she said. "It's awful because there's been a great sense of being part of something. I've met some fantastic people and been amazed by the support all the guys have given me. If you prove yourself, there's no chauvinism."

She is happy that the RAC Rally will begin and end in Cheltenham. Her boyfriend and parents have watched all her races but now, with the rally route so close to home, her friends can satisfy their curiosity.

"It's funny, because a lot of the garages I deliver parts to for work joke that I always get there fast," Heijink said. "I say it's because I'm a rally driver and now they can come and see for themselves."

They will not, though, be able to watch the former world champion, Stig Blomqvist, because of an entry mix-up. The Swede was set to race in the Skoda team. "It's gutting, because he's one of the all-time greats," Heijink said. "I was really looking forward to meeting him."

Her heart is simply set on a finish. Her portfolio will look all the more impressive for a good drive in the RAC but, if it is to be the last race in an all-too-short career, Heijink has little doubt how she will spend her spare time. "I'll go out and watch, just for the sheer pleasure of being there."

### Change to Interest Rates.

With effect from the start of business on 20th November 1997 the following **Business Cheque and Deposit rates** are applicable to the accounts set out below:

	Rate per Annum	GROSS %	GROSS % C.A.R. %
<b>Business Interest Cheque Account</b>			
<b>Instant Access Cheque Account</b>			
£250,000+	3.75	3.80	
£100,000-249,999	3.30	3.34	
£50,000-99,999	2.85	2.88	
£10,000-49,999	2.45	2.47	
£2,000-9,999	2.10	2.12	
£1-1,999	1.20	1.21	
<b>Schools Banking Account</b>			
	5.05	5.15	
<b>Capital Reserve Account**</b>			
£250,000+	5.85	5.98	
£100,000-249,999	5.65	5.77	
£50,000-99,999	5.35	5.46	
£10,000-49,999	4.95	5.04	
£2,000-9,999	4.50	4.58	
£1-1,999	4.50	4.58	
<b>Practice Call Account†</b>			
	5.40	5.51	
<b>Designated Clients Account</b>			
£100,000+	5.40	5.51	
£50,000-99,999	5.20	5.30	
£10,000-49,999	4.95	5.04	
£2,000-9,999	3.90	3.96	
£1-1,999	2.15	2.17	
<b>Business Call Account</b>			
£250,000+	4.45	4.52	
£50,000-249,999	4.25	4.32	
£10,000-49,999	3.90	3.96	
£1,000-9,999	3.60	3.65	
£1-999	3.35	3.39	



Interest rates are variable. Interest paid quarterly.  
\*Before deduction of income tax at the basic rate  
\*\*7 days notice of withdrawal required or equivalent loss of interest on amount withdrawn. Maximum balance £2,000  
TSB Bank plc, 71 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BS  
TSB Bank Scotland plc, Henry Duncan House, 120 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4JL

## SNOKER: WORLD NO 5 FALLS VICTIM AS PRINCE BECOMES KING FOR THE DAY

### Ebdon plotting his recovery course

PETER EBDON remained upbeat despite losing 9-5 to Jason Prince, the world No 42, in the latest upset to feature at the Liverpool Victoria United Kingdom Championship in Preston yesterday.

Ebdon has made a wretched start to the season. He has avoided defeat in only one of five matches and will not travel to the German Open next month after failing to qualify.

Regardless of such a dismal recent record, he remained unwaveringly optimistic. "There's no reason why I can't be world No 1 in the next two or three years. That is still the aim," he said.

"This is only a minor setback and I will come back stronger. I am bitterly disappointed but you have got to take it on the chin."

Ebdon insisted his present vulnerability is a by-product of distractions and a less intense early-season work-rate than usual. In an attempt to address this problem, he sent two of his prized racehorses,

with the class of 1990, which included Ken Doherty and Alan McManus, but has achieved only a fraction of their success, advances to meet McManus for a place in the quarter-finals.

"I practice with James Wattana a lot when he is in this country and he can't believe that I have never really done myself justice," Prince said.

"It made me realise that instead of worrying what is the correct shot to play, I should just concentrate on my natural game."

Wattana, the world No 12, subsequently became the eighth member of the top 16 to be eliminated when he lost 9-8 to Gary Wilkinson. The Thai recovered from 8-5 down to 8-8 but wasted a couple of opportunities in a typically tense deciding frame to allow Wilkinson through.

Ronnie O'Sullivan, who led Terry Murphy 5-3, looked to be on course to supply his opposition in the fourth round.

Magic Lake and Orford, to the Doncaster sales yesterday. "I am doing that to give myself a kick up the backside," Ebdon, the world No 5, said.

"I feel I am at the crossroads and I've got to give myself new direction and focus. I have to get my dedication and determination back."

While Ebdon's self-confidence in the face of such a descent is commendable, by talking of topping the rankings and winning tournaments, in the wake of such a dismal sequence of results, he is putting himself under unnecessary pressure to deliver.

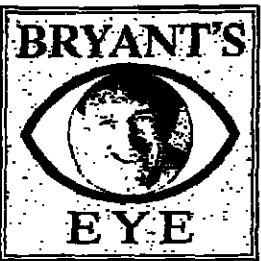
Held 4-4 overnight, Ebdon was expected to surge away but Prince, an Ulsterman resident in West Yorkshire for the past ten years, accounted for five of the next six frames, even though he compiled only one half-century break in the process. Prince, who turned professional

- Answers from page 45
- IMBUYA  
(a) A Brazilian timber tree, *Phoebe porosa*, or the wood obtained from it. A Portuguese adaptation of the local name for the tree. "Imbuia" is a brown wood imported from the Central and South America. It is occasionally called Brazilian walnut because of the similarity of its colour to walnut. It is softer than black walnut and is usually available in logs and thin planks."
- METANOIA  
(a) Penitence, repentance, reorientation of one's way of life, spiritual conversion. From the Greek *metanoia* to change one's mind, repent. "It must reveal the Church as the community in which the religious intentionality of all people can blossom into that newness of life that is the real metanoia."
- MURU  
(a) Official robbery: the Maori system of plunder as a penalty. "There were in the old times two great institutions in Maori land — the *Tapu* and the *Muru*. *Pakihaka* called the *Muru* simply robbery. But I speak of the regular legalised and established system of plundering, as penalty for offences."
- HEEMRAD  
(a) A local petty court or council assisting the landdrost in South Africa and also formerly in Holland; also, a member of this council. "Lord from the Dutch *heem* a village, home + *raad* council. "Lord Caledon, after our second annexation of the Cape, revived an old kind of elected Council, named Heemraden, for the government of the inland districts."
- SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE  
1. e4 Qx2 2. Qx7+ Ke7 4. Rg7+ Kd6 5. R7+ Kc5 6. Qg3+ and mate next move.



Life-or-death situations illustrate power of adrenalin

## Tapping into the fear factor



SPORT should never be a matter of life and death, but could you swim faster if you were being chased by a shark? It could be a serious question for competitors and coaches at the world championships in Perth, Australia, next year. Fina, swimming's governing body, has ordered spotter planes and armed scuba divers to guard the long-distance ocean events after a recent spate of shark attacks.

Kevin Holton, the race co-ordinator, said: "Each competitor will have a support boat and there will also be back-up crews with lifeboats and rubber ducks (dinghies), as well as helicopters. We also agreed to get a surveillance plane to fly overhead to look out for sharks, and there will even be a team of scuba divers armed with spear guns."

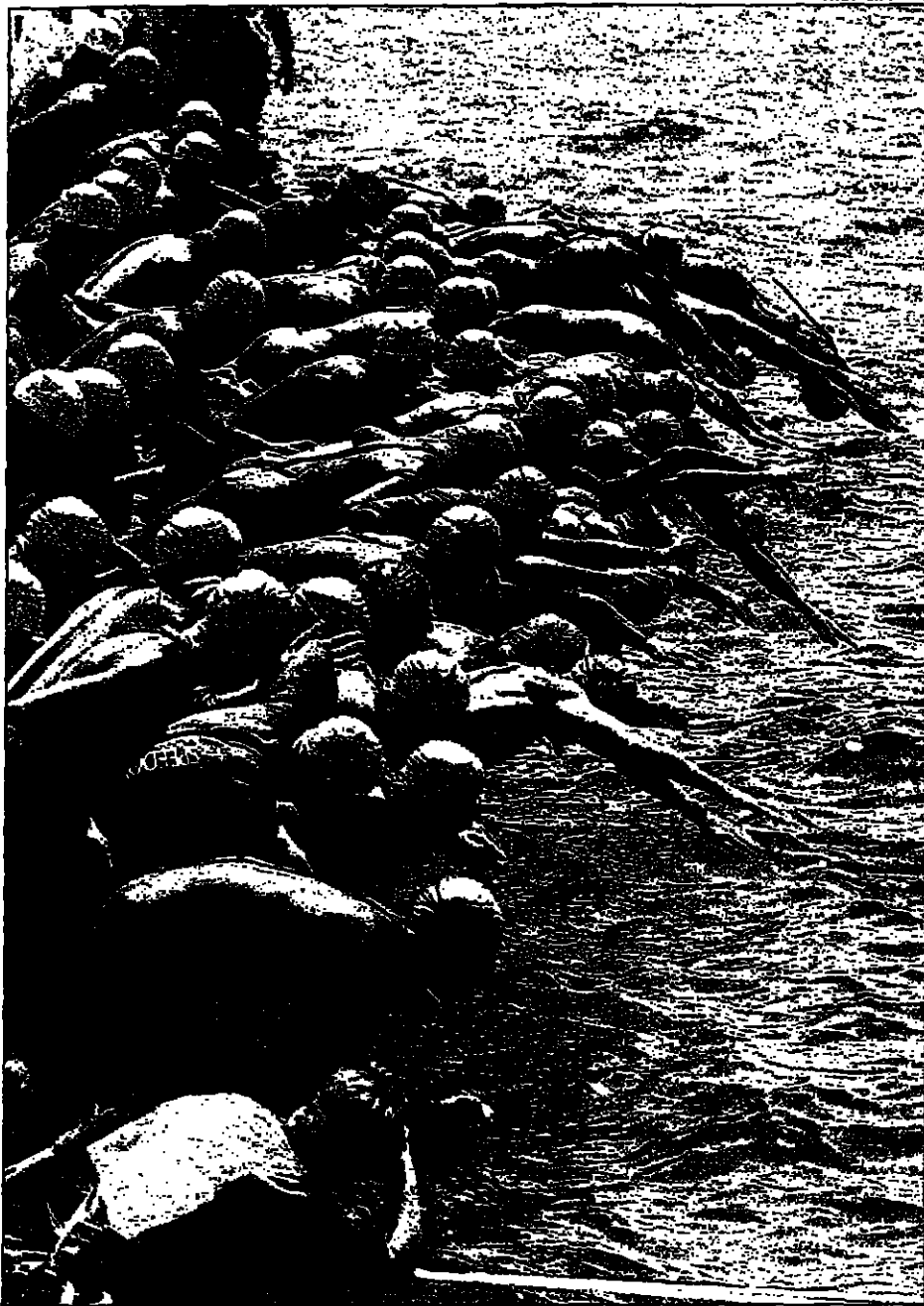
Holton said that the precautions were to stop the swimmers from experiencing fear. But perhaps he is doing them no favours, for there are many who believe that fear could be the vital ingredient needed to produce a record-shattering performance.

Dr Murray Watson, the zoologist, is convinced that a fear-enhanced feat will beat a drug-assisted athletic performance. He used to keep a tooth-torn pair of bush shorts in his office in the Tasvo National Park in Kenya to remind him of the night that he beat the high jump world record.

This record cannot be found in the books, because it was achieved far from any stadium and with the aid of a pack of hyenas. It took place in the national park one night in 1965 after Murray's Land Rover had broken down two miles from his base camp.

He was 26, relatively new to Africa, and he decided to walk back to camp rather than stay with his vehicle. Within a few hundred yards, and with darkness closing in, he found he was being hunted by a pack of hyenas. When the leading animal snapped at him, he decided it was time to hide.

In desperation, and with the



Swimmers take to the water in Australia, but would a chasing shark make them go faster?

hyenas snarling at his back — one even took a bite out of his shorts — he jumped for the lowest branch of a tree and swung to safety. He sat it out in the tree. At dawn he was amazed to find that he was more than 12 feet from the ground and, once down, despite repeated attempts, he could not get within four feet of the leap he had achieved the night before. His colleagues, sceptical of his story, had a go at matching his jump, but not one of them could get near it.

It is not the only story of its kind. Watson's performance echoes that of others who, in moments of high danger, pull

off the seemingly impossible. There is the case of the distraught Florida mother, Maxwell Rogers, who lifted a station-wagon off her trapped son and held it long enough for the child to be pulled free. She weighed 8st 11lb and the vehicle 3,600lb. Trained strongmen found it difficult to match her feat, but for her there had been no weight-lifting, no steroids. Instead she was just using one of the great resources available to any sportsman — the power of mind over matter.

There are plenty of sports scientists who feel that the limits of physical conditioning

have nearly been reached and that the great advances of the future will come from psychology. What they know is that the human who attempts the impossible because he is being hounded by wild animals is mobilising an innate fear-or-flight reaction and dosing himself up on one of the most powerful and ancient of stimulants — adrenalin.

Adrenalin is a remarkable performance enhancer. If athletes were offered a stimulant that promised to increase the rate and depth of their breathing during competition, boost heart rate and mask pain, the international Olympic Com-

mittee would want to ban it. Yet it already exists. When adrenalin kicks in, it can fire freak performances from the untrained, or spark barrier-breaking records from sportsmen, providing tantalising glimpses of what is possible without drugs.

Sometimes we are privileged to witness the untapped potential of the body within a stadium, as when Bob Beamon unleashed his record-shattering long jump in 1968, which confounded experts and put the world mark out of sight for nearly three decades.

David Hemery, who won gold in the 400 metres at the same Olympic Games, co-wrote a book called *Winning Without Drugs*, in which he puts forward the theory that everything that a human being might achieve with artificial stimulants can be matched using natural and legal training procedures, and by harnessing the power of the mind.

Few can doubt that, for the swimmers in Perth, the sight

## 'Coaches must plug natural responses of aggression and survival'

of a shark fin on the horizon would flood their bodies with adrenalin and speed them up. So, perhaps the trick for the coaches of the future is to plant the fear of the shark, without the reality.

If they could do this, they could plug into the natural responses of fear, aggression and survival that are such powerful legacies from our past. If psychology and technology can work together, virtual-reality sharks and hyenas may yet chase man to heights and speeds as yet undreamed of.

In this age of professionalism and hype, physical performances are often touted as if they were a matter of life or death. Through millions of years of survival, of course, they were. Make-believe sharks, and hyenas that snarl only in the mind, may yet unlock amazing powers to run, jump and swim. To our ancestors, such sport really was a matter of life and death.

JOHN BRYANT

TENNIS: SCHULTZ-McCARTHY IS FORCED TO WITHDRAW BY INJURY IN SHOWCASE TOURNAMENT

## Hingis struggles to maintain momentum

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN NEW YORK

THE Chase Championships are billed as the showcase for women's tennis. Over seven days, the great and the good do battle to decide who is the champion of champions. But late on Tuesday night, the year's achievements were wrapped up in two matches as Martina Hingis, winner of Wimbledon and the Australian and US Opens, and Iva Majoli, winner of the French Open, won their opening matches. The "grand slam" encapsulated in two young women, neither of whom are old enough to buy a beer in this state to celebrate their success.

Hingis was helped on her way by Brenda Schultz-McCarthy, who had to default in mid-match with a toe injury. Stretching for a volley at the start of the second set she missed her footing, tore a toenail and gave up the struggle seven games later, allowing Hingis to go through 7-6, 5-2. It has been that sort of year for Schultz-McCarthy. She has had Achilles problems, an ankle injury and is scuppered by a toenail.

Nothing about Schultz-McCarthy is orthodox. She has a forehead that makes it look as if she is knocking a nail into a wall and a service that could kill a yak, but when it comes to stringing the shots together it all goes wrong. Serving aces with carefree

abandon, she had Hingis on the rack for large parts of the first set but, when it came to putting away the winner on the big points, she fluffed it, landing shots in the front row of the stalls and overheads in the bottom of the net.

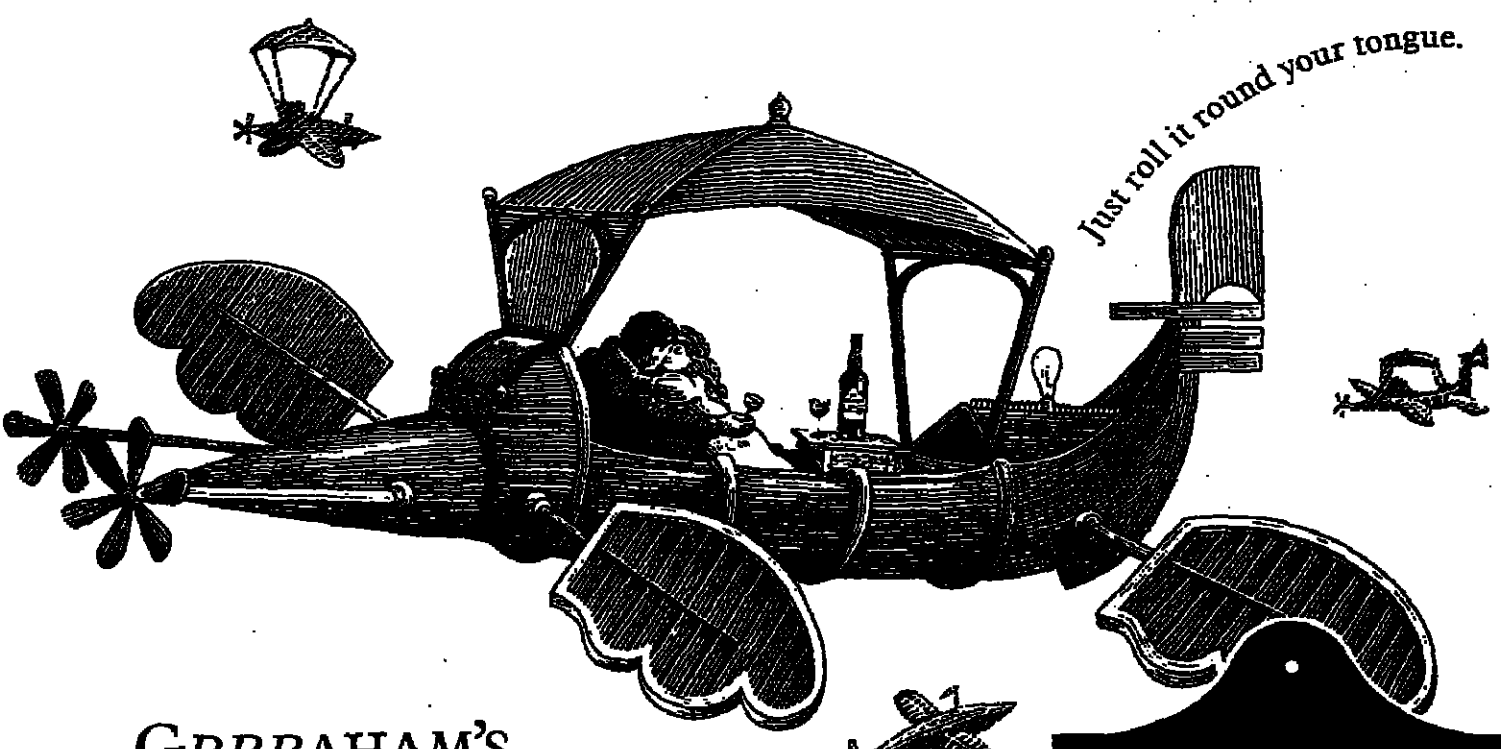
As for Hingis, she was happy to have the first win in the bank. At only 17 and with all that has happened to her this year, she admitted that it is hard to keep the momentum going. Last week in Philadelphia she had three close and tough matches. The word is out in the locker-room that Hingis is beatable provided someone has the confidence.

Whether Marie Pierce, her next opponent, is the one remains to be seen. Pierce has the rare ability to play brilliant and wayward tennis in the course of one rally.

Majoli is one of the few to have had the better of Hingis this year, beating her in the French Open final, but since then her form has been on the slide. Playing her old adversary, Anke Huber, she eventually won the baseline war of attrition. With Majoli grunting on every stroke and Huber squealing at every mistake, the grunts beat the squeals 7-6, 7-6.

Then it was left to the older players to make their mark. Jana Novotna, positively elderly in this company at 29 but improving with age, outplayed Conchita Martínez, four years her junior, 6-4, 6-4.

## GRRASP THE MOMENT



GRRRAHAM'S PORT

W. &amp; J. GRAHAM'S THE PORT OF AUTHORITY

## Travellers' tales of woe

Holiday Reps BBC1, 8.30pm

All thoughts that working for a tour company abroad means having a paid holiday are banished for good. Poor Caroline, the bubbly blonde we met last week, has the ultimately dreadful task of trying to pacify increasingly angry customers as they wait hour after hour for their flight home. It is not Caroline's fault that a flash storm has hit Minorca Airport and that the flight has yet to leave Gatwick. But she is Unjet's person on the spot and gets the flak. On Lanzarote, meanwhile, Claire is also wondering whether being a holiday rep is a good idea. She is getting homesick and may have to miss two important weddings. Eve may also live to regret her sojourn in the sun. Having ignored the company's warning about the attentions of local men, she is worried that her romance with Spanish waiter Andreas has gone too far.

Dover ITV, 8.30pm

It is Europe's busiest ferry port at the best of times and at Easter Dover is even busier than usual. Perhaps it is the Bank Holiday mood which gives tonight's film a jocular air. The search of a European-bound rugby team for offensive weapons yields only a hollow doll and a lot of drink. Alcohol has already done for three loutish males who are ejected from a coach for abusive behaviour. Even a snoop by HM Customs and Excise on a suspected tobacco smuggler has its funny side, as the man comes up with an unlikely story and officer Peter says, with a twinkle in his eye, that he does not believe a word of it. And although the victim might not agree, there is something amusing about a woman who accidentally posts her passport in a letter box at Dover Priory station.

Scare Stories: Boning At the Seams BBC2, 9.25pm

In 1968 the American biologist Paul Ehrlich predicted that millions would starve to death because the planet could not feed them. It has not happened and this first of five films about environmental doomwatching argues that fears about over-population have been largely misplaced. Michael Buerk, who reported so



The Windsor Castle fire (ITV, 10.40pm)

memorably on the Ethiopian famine in the 1980s, says the main cause of people going hungry was the civil war which stopped food getting through. The film claims that all coercive policies to reduce population growth, such as China's "one child" campaign, have failed and suggests that the real solution to smaller families is growing prosperity. That, of course, is the Vatican line, but it finds no favour with women who see contraception as a means of having control over their bodies.

Windsor Restored ITV, 10.40pm (Ulster 11.00pm, Grampian 11.40pm, STV 11.45pm)

As Bill McLaren says at rugby matches, this is a right royal occasion. A documentary charting the rebuilding of Windsor Castle after the fire five years ago is produced by Prince Edward and includes contributions from the Duke of Edinburgh, the Prince of Wales and the Duke of York. Partly it is a story of remarkable escapes. Thanks to rapid evacuation work by a human chain, almost all the castle's treasures were saved. But the fire still damaged or destroyed more than 100 rooms, nearly one fifth of the building. That none of this is evident today is a tribute to skilled restoration on a scale rarely attempted in Britain. In some areas, notably St George's Hall which has a new ceiling and freshly revealed medieval designs, the refurbishment has improved on what was there before the fire. Peter Waymark

## RADIO CHOICE

Service of Thanksgiving Radio 4, 10.45am, (LW only)

An upheaval in the schedules means that I feel obliged to turn this space into a public information slot. The service in question is for the Queen's 50th wedding anniversary and it is being transmitted on long wave only. There are several consequences. There will be no *Daily Service* on long wave at 10.00am and *Woman's Hour* (at 10.30) will be on FM only, meaning that women who are Christian, monarchist and feminist face something of a dilemma. Listeners who cannot get an FM signal will hear, at 10.00am, part four of the Agatha Christie story *A Caribbean Mystery*, which is usually on FM only but which today is being transmitted on both FM and long wave. It all makes perfect sense to someone.

## RADIO 1

6.30am Kevin Greening and Zoe Ball 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 John Peel 1.30pm Radio 1 News 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Dave Pearce 5.15 Newsbeat 6.30 Evening Session 8.30 News 9.00 Radio 1 News 9.30 John Peel 10.00 Radio 1 News 10.30 Radio 1 News 11.00 Radio 1 News 11.30 Radio 1 News 12.00 Radio 1 News 12.30 Radio 1 News 1.00 Radio 1 News 1.30 Radio 1 News 2.00 Radio 1 News 2.30 Radio 1 News 3.00 Radio 1 News 3.30 Radio 1 News 4.00 Radio 1 News 4.30 Radio 1 News 5.00 Radio 1 News 5.30 Radio 1 News 6.00 Radio 1 News 6.30 Radio 1 News 7.00 Radio 1 News 7.30 Radio 1 News 8.00 Radio 1 News 8.30 Radio 1 News 9.00 Radio 1 News 9.30 Radio 1 News 10.00 Radio 1 News 10.30 Radio 1 News 11.00 Radio 1 News 11.30 Radio 1 News 12.00 Radio 1 News 12.30 Radio 1 News 1.00 Radio 1 News 1.30 Radio 1 News 2.00 Radio 1 News 2.30 Radio 1 News 3.00 Radio 1 News 3.30 Radio 1 News 4.00 Radio 1 News 4.30 Radio 1 News 5.00 Radio 1 News 5.30 Radio 1 News 6.00 Radio 1 News 6.30 Radio 1 News 7.00 Radio 1 News 7.30 Radio 1 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## Name-calling and cryptic crossword clues

As our schools paddle in the shallow intellectual waters of multiple choice and continuous assessment, how quaint to find Inspector Morse (ITV) banging the drum for traditional menial exercise last night by setting us cryptic crossword clues — an extra brain-teaser for those hungry to solve more than just the plot of Colin Dexter's latest Morse saga, *Death Is Now My Neighbour*.

So what, after 31 Morse films, is the man's first name? Hmmm? "Morse," mumbles John Thaw to his would-be lover, Adele, trying to make it sound as sexy as when Agent 007 introduces himself simply as "Bond." "Everyone just... calls me Morse. I do have a first name, of course, but I'd have to know you better," he feels which must have made Lewis feel good.

When Adele warns the Inspector that he won't get to know her better unless he coughs up his

first name, Morse fudges: "My whole life's effort has revolved around Eve. Nine letters, and that's the truth. The whole truth."

Can you imagine Morse's reaction if a murder suspect he was interviewing tried to be this cute with him? "Was I at the scene of the crime, Inspector? Well, let me put it this way, I'll may — My first is in toy, but not in hot; my second is in hell, but not in hot; my last is not in bar, but it is in Bass. So was I at the scene? You'll just have to guess."

"Looowowist! Get this cretin out of my sight, before I do something I'll regret. Like pay for my own pint."

The anagram of "around Eve", as crossword solvers will know, is Endeavour. But why? "My father," he tells Adele, while Lewis is at the bar buying yet another round for the night-fisted Morse, "was obsessed by Captain Cook and his ship was called HMS..."

managed to eavesdrop just in time. "I'm not calling you Endeavour," said Adele. "I'll stick to Morse, like everyone else."

Especially when you consider that what might have happened if his father had been obsessed by, say, Sir Francis Drake, or Charles Darwin, or Christopher Columbus, or even Jacques Cousteau. Of course, by the time they film the remake of *Death Is Now My Neighbour*, ITV will have replaced Morse's cryptic crossword caper with a more viewer-friendly multiple-choice option. Adele: "So what's your full name, Morse?" "I do have a full name, of course, born of my father's obsession with Captain Cook. So it is: (a) Golden Hind Morse; (b) Beagle Morse; (c) Santa Maria Morse; (d) Calypso Morse; or (e) Endeavour Morse?" John Thaw, as Morse, and

## REVIEW



Joe Joseph

Kevin Whately, as Lewis, glided through Morse's cryptic caper with the unflinching ease of a married couple who know — without even bothering to catch their spouse's eye — how each will react to any new circumstance. The starchy supporting cast — Roger Allam, Maggie Steed, Judy Lee — shimmered. Richard Briers, as Sir Cissy Bream, shone. Just as we were mourning last week's death of

Isaiah Berlin, envying him his long, uplifting life of academic contemplation, along came Sir Cissy, the viperish outgoing master of Lonsdale College, Oxford, to remind us how bitchy academia can be: Julius Caesar's back bore fewer stab wounds than that of even the lowliest university don.

Sally, Channel 4's Secret Lives on L Ron Hubbard, the founder of Scientology, failed to enter into the spirit of the evening by challenging us to guess what the "L" stood for. So let me make you an offer on their behalf: "Eat, fly, eat" ordered the combative Hubbard. Nine letters (answer at the bottom of the column).

The gist of the programme itself was not so secret either, even before John Travolta made the documentary front-page news by pleading with Channel 4 not to show it. Most people who are not Scientologists have long thought that "L" Ron Hubbard was a

fantasist and charlatan who was lucky to have found people eager to believe his science fiction. As Cyril Vesper, once on Hubbard's staff, said: "He told so many stories of his exploits in South America and West Indies and places that he would have had to be at least 483 years old to have had enough time to have done all those things. But that doesn't matter. It was just very entertaining, really. Except that he turned it into a religion." Not so entertaining, though, for the little boy Hubbard imprisoned in a wet dark cell for two days for committing some teeny misdeed; nor for Hubbard's son, Quentin, who committed suicide rather than tell his father that he was gay.

It doesn't seem too surprising that people such as Lisa Marie Presley and Tom Cruise have succumbed. But Travolta? It would have been useful to see someone like him bating for Hubbard's

ideas, because they don't look like the sort that the Travoltas we know would swallow — certainly not the Travolta of Vincent Vega in *Pulp Fiction*? Just consider:

INT: '74 CHEVY. MORNING. Vincent: "You know what they call the Big Cheese, L Ron Hubbard, in Paris?" Jules: "They don't call him the Big Cheese?" Vincent: "No, man, they got the French language over there." Jules: "What'd they call him?" Vincent: "They call him 'Le Grand Fromage'." Jules: "Yeah, that's right." Vincent: "What'd they call Scientology?" Vincent: "Well, Scientology's Scientology, but they call it 'Le Scientology'." Jules: "Le Scientology. What'd they call Judaism?" Vincent: "I dunno, I didn't go into a synagogue." See what I mean?

Oh, and that crossword clue answer, if it makes Morse feel any better, is Lafayette.

## BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (86755)
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (74827)
- 9.00 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (N) (547730)
- 9.25 Style Challenge (548895)
- 9.50 Kilroy (N) (2275587)
- 10.00 News (7) and weather (7459407)
- 10.30 The Queen's Golden Wedding Anniversary Service of Thanksgiving for the Golden Wedding Anniversary of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, from Westminster Abbey. The Royal Family join other couples sharing the same anniversary day for the service, before attending a lunch in their honour at the Banqueting House. (N) Subsequent programmes are subject to change (5723049)

- 12.35pm Give Us A Clue (2190198)
- 1.00 News (7) and weather (77914)
- 1.30 Regional News (84204310)
- 1.40 The Weather Show (5076257)
- 1.45 Neighbours (7) (44217843)
- 2.05 Quincey (7) (2884488)
- 2.55 Wogan's Best of Blankety Blank (748481)
- 3.30 Funnieshow (1045372) 3.35 Playdays (8034204) 3.55 The Silver Brumby (8038020) 4.20 Mr Wym (8834564) 4.35 Smart (1651933) 5.00 Newsround (7) (5392556) 5.10 Byker Grove (7) (8243556)

- 5.35 Neighbours (7) (714643)
- 6.00 Six O'Clock News (7) and weather (223)
- 6.30 Regional News (7) (575)
- 7.00 Watchdog with Anne Robinson. Consumer magazine (7) (7682)
- 7.30 EastEnders (7) (759)
- 8.00 Animal Hospital (7) (6310)
- 8.30 Holiday Reps Holidaymakers experience chaos at Minorca airport when the island's worst ever storm coincides with unprecedented delays (7) (117)
- 9.00 News (7) and weather (5049)
- 9.30 Men Behaving Badly A holiday in a small covey cramps the two couples' style (7) (57575)

- 10.00 They Think It's All Over With Frankie Detton and Alastair McGowan (7) (819)
- 10.30 Clive Anderson All Talk With Joanne Lumley, Wesley Snipes, and Alan Partridge (27846)

- 11.00 Question Time Political discussion with a panel comprising Minister without Portfolio, Peter Mandelson, the Shadow Health Secretary, John Birt, the academic and broadcaster, Lisa Jardine, and the deputy director general of the Engineering Employers' Federation, Anne Minio. (N) In the event of early election results, subsequent programmes are subject to interruption or change (70759)
- 12.05pm What a Carry On! Clips from Carry On films (897960)

- 12.55 The Midnight Hour By-Election Special David Dimbleby presides over a special edition to analyse the significance of results in today's by-elections in Winchester and Beckenham (764402) Followed by Weather
- 3.00 BBC News 24 (88044)

**VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes**  
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes, numbers which allow you to programme your video recorder to follow a video programme. To use the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record, Videorecorder (VCR) and Video Programme are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

**For further listings see Saturday's Vision**

## SKY 1

- 6.00am Morning Glory (80885) 9.00 Hotel (49738) 10.00 Another World (51130) 11.00 Days of Our Lives (11972) 12.00 Oprah Winfrey (84958) 1.00 The Howard Stern Show (84958) 2.00 The Howard Stern Show (84958) 3.00 The Howard Stern Show (84958) 4.00 The Howard Stern Show (84958) 5.00 The Howard Stern Show (84958) 6.00 The Howard Stern Show (84958) 7.00 The Howard Stern Show (84958) 8.00 The Howard Stern Show (84958) 9.00 The Howard Stern Show (84958) 10.00 The Howard Stern Show (84958) 11.00 The Howard Stern Show (84958) 12.00 The Howard Stern Show (84958)

## SKY MOVIES SCREEN 1

- 6.00am Sea's Healer (1980) (5171846) 7.45 Out of Time (1988) (5171846) 11.30 The Wrong Box (1966) (5171846) 1.30 The Wrong Box (1966) (5171846) 2.30 The Wrong Box (1966) (5171846) 3.30 The Wrong Box (1966) (5171846) 4.30 The Wrong Box (1966) (5171846) 5.30 The Wrong Box (1966) (5171846) 6.30 The Wrong Box (1966) (5171846) 7.30 The Wrong Box (1966) (5171846) 8.30 The Wrong Box (1966) (5171846) 9.30 The Wrong Box (1966) (5171846) 10.30 The Wrong Box (1966) (5171846) 11.30 The Wrong Box (1966) (5171846) 12.30 The Wrong Box (1966) (5171846)

## SKY MOVIES SCREEN 2

- 6.00am The Last Days of Pompeii (1947) (79488) 8.00 The Last Days of Pompeii (1947) (79488) 10.00 The Last Days of Pompeii (1947) (79488) 12.00 The Last Days of Pompeii (1947) (79488) 2.00 The Last Days of Pompeii (1947) (79488) 4.00 The Last Days of Pompeii (1947) (79488) 6.00 The Last Days of Pompeii (1947) (79488) 8.00 The Last Days of Pompeii (1947) (79488) 10.00 The Last Days of Pompeii (1947) (79488) 12.00 The Last Days of Pompeii (1947) (79488) 2.00 The Last Days of Pompeii (1947) (79488) 4.00 The Last Days of Pompeii (1947) (79488) 6.00 The Last Days of Pompeii (1947) (79488) 8.00 The Last Days of Pompeii (1947) (79488) 10.00 The Last Days of Pompeii (1947) (79488) 12.00 The Last Days of Pompeii (1947) (79488)

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## BBC2

- 6.00am Science: Our Incredible Sun (90440)
- 6.30 Seasonal Affective Disorder (48827)
- 7.00 See How Breakfast News (523557)
- 7.15 Teletubbies (484440) 7.40 Penelope Pitstop (2122681) 8.05 Blue Peter (219778) 8.30 Mouse and Mole (506730) 8.35 John and Friends (404204) 8.45 The Record (540575) 9.10 Numberline (846897) 9.25 Megamaths (7) (2082914) 9.45 Come Outside (439248)

- 10.00 Teletubbies (89407) 10.30 Storyline (5612907) 10.45 The Experimenter (2204556) 11.05 Space Ark (8131778) 11.15 Zig Zag (1419391) 11.25 English File (9118420) 11.55 Lifestyles (1013355) 12.20pm Newsweek Review (510681)
- 12.30pm Lunch (58881) 1.00 Barney (4614830) 1.05 Monks (4759371) 1.10 The Art and Antiques Hour (5235372) 2.10 Going, Going, Gone (5205223) 2.40 News (7) (247372) 2.45 Westminster (7) (7040041) 3.25 News (7) (885778) 3.30 The Village (7) (881)

- 4.00 Ready, Steady, Cook (488) 4.30 Through the Keyhole (1552044) 4.55 EastEnders (940775) 5.30 Today's the Day (952)
- 6.00 The Musters (7) (737020)
- 6.25 Ren and Stimpy (837594)
- 6.45 Hit, Miss or Maybe (611223)
- 7.00 The Whitbread Tea 4,800-mile second leg across the inhospitable Southern Ocean from Cape Town to Fremantle (5204)
- 7.30 First Sight Examination of non-custodial schemes aimed at reducing the number of 15-year-olds sent to prison (7) (371) WALES: Just One Chance EAST: Matter of Fact MIDLANDS: Midlands Republic NORTH/NORTH EAST/NORTH WEST/SOUTH WEST: Close Up

- 8.00 Just One Chance Educational magazine (4952) WALES: Roy Noble, on Common Ground
- 8.30 Top Gear Second-hand cars (7) (5988)
- 9.00 Third Rock from the Sun (7) (951814)



Robert Wilcox as DC Donachie (8.00)

- 9.00 The Bill Talkers: Road Rage A shootout with four ruthless villains from the "Costa del Crime" leaves two motorway patrolmen dead. With Nicholas Ball and Robert Wilcox (7) (7759)

- 10.00 News (7) and weather (36594)
- 10.30 Regional News (7) (748881)
- 10.40 Network First Windsor Restored The restoration work carried out after the fire at Windsor Castle in 1992 (7) (545914)
- 11.40 Wales: The Big Story (7) (71372)
- 12.00 Wales: The Big Story (7) (71372)

## EUROSPORT

- 7.30am Golf (82444) 8.30 World Cup Dream Team (82444) 9.30 World Cup Legends (82444) 10.30 World Cup Legends (82444) 11.30 World Cup Legends (82444) 12.30 World Cup Legends (82444) 1.30 World Cup Legends (82444) 2.30 World Cup Legends (82444) 3.30 World Cup Legends (82444) 4.30 World Cup Legends (82444) 5.30 World Cup Legends (82444) 6.30 World Cup Legends (82444) 7.30 World Cup Legends (82444) 8.30 World Cup Legends (82444) 9.30 World Cup Legends (82444) 10.30 World Cup Legends (82444) 11.30 World Cup Legends (82444) 12.30 World Cup Legends (82444) 1.30 World Cup Legends (82444) 2.30 World Cup Legends (82444) 3.30 World Cup Legends (82444) 4.30 World Cup Legends (82444) 5.30 World Cup Legends (82444) 6.30 World Cup Legends (82444) 7.30 World Cup Legends (82444) 8.30 World Cup Legends (82444) 9.30 World Cup Legends (82444) 10.30 World Cup Legends (82444) 11.30 World Cup Legends (82444) 12.30 World Cup Legends (82444) 1.30 World Cup Legends (82444) 2.30 World Cup Legends (82444) 3.30 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# SPORT

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 20 1997

## MOTOR SPORT 49

Driving desire  
puts Heijink  
into fast lane



Selection of New Zealand wing makes Old Trafford task more daunting

## Return of Lomu lengthens odds against England

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE giant shadow of Jonah Lomu fell across England yesterday. After 16 months away from international rugby, the 6ft 4in New Zealand wing will return at Old Trafford on Saturday in the first of two clashes between the countries and, daunting though it will be for England's refurbished XV, the whole sport will rejoice at his brave recovery from a career-threatening illness.

In two brief years and 17 internationals, Lomu seized the global imagination like few before him. His potent combination of pace, power and outright size took the 1995 World Cup by storm before it was learnt, a year ago, that he was suffering from a rare kidney ailment that required intensive treatment to keep under control.

That he was able to claim a place in the present tour party was remarkable in itself; that he has convinced the All Blacks management that he is ready to return at the highest level is testimony to his individual determination and quality.

Lomu takes the place of Glen Osborne on the left wing and John Hart, the New Zealand coach, will decide today whether Andrew Brown

ers, who played in the 63-15 defeat of Ireland in Dublin at the weekend, or Josh Kronfeld will play open-side flanker. Both are carrying minor injuries, Kronfeld to the ribs and Blowers to the nose, and it is likely that both will play a role at some stage of the game on Saturday.

Against them, England will



Jonah Lomu here I come!

pit a XV little changed from that which shared a drab 15-15 draw with Australia at Twickenham last Saturday. Will Green, the Wasps tight-head prop, was not considered because of the recurrence of a back injury, so Darren Garforth takes his place with Richard Cockerill, his

Leicester team-mate, starting the match at hooker in place of Andrew Long, of Bath. Garforth played for Emerging England against the All Blacks at Huddersfield on Tuesday night and was replaced shortly after the interval specifically because the decision had already been made that he should win his fifth cap.

Lomu's immediate opponent will be David Rees, at 5ft 9in one of the smallest members of the England team, though he will be winning his second cap near his home ground on Sale. Rees, sensibly, has dismissed as irrelevant memories of the World Cup semi-final in South Africa two years ago, in which Lomu scored four tries against England, and Tony Underwood in particular.

"There is a danger of getting obsessed about it," Rees said. "I love tackling whoever is picked against me. It's an exciting challenge that I relish. I'm glad that Jonah is well again and playing Test rugby."

Rees's good wishes will not deflect the impact that Lomu would like to have on his return. It is a measure of the New Zealand team management that they made an exception yesterday morning from their usual practice of talking through promotions and demotions with the individuals concerned and announced his inclusion in front of the whole tour party.

"I think we all got an immense amount of satisfaction out of the way Jonah played at Huddersfield," Sean Fitzpatrick, his injured captain, said.

Two tries, neither particularly demanding, in the 59-22 win over Emerging England were not the whole story. "What we have seen over the last two weeks, on and off the field, has led to his selection," Hart said.

"He is full of confidence, he adds a dimension most other teams don't like but, more importantly, we have seen a maturity in Jonah as a result of his illness. He has become a



Waiting for Jonah: Greenwood, left, and Rees, who must bring down Lomu on Saturday

mentally harder person, a stronger and better person."

Lomu himself was less than convinced that his displays thus far would be enough to restore him to the side ahead of so talented a player as Osborne. "I was in shock when my name was read out," he said. "If I had been wearing a pacemaker, it would have gone off the Richter Scale. Words can't describe it."

Only once did Lomu believe,

during his eight months of treatment, that he might not return to rugby union and then Tanya, his wife and braver than most of us, "gave me a slap". Lomu described this as "a new era, a new team, the World Cup is dead and buried."

"The hard work has been done, my wife told me to go out, enjoy it and have fun. When I knew about my illness, I was lucky to have big

shoulders around me to help to share the load. It was hard, watching the All Blacks play and not being part of it. Rugby was my life, it gave me a new way of life but now I can see a broader picture," he said.

During the tour, Lomu, whose weight ballooned to 24st during his drugs treatment before returning to his normal 18st, has lost some 12lb though Rees, conceivably, may not notice the difference.

## Sugar sweetens bitter taste of resignation for Francis

BY MAIT DICKINSON

GERRY FRANCIS doubted that it was the right decision and Alan Sugar imploried him to change his mind. Yet the two of them still ended up presiding over Francis's resignation as manager of Tottenham Hotspur yesterday, saying their farewells amid a welter of mutual praise. As divorces go, it could not have been more amicable.

Francis said that he had made his decision more than two weeks ago, after the home defeat by Leeds United, and that he had made it purely in the hope that a change of leader would revive the club's fortunes. He went wishing nothing but goodwill for the club and his successor.

Meanwhile, Sugar, the Spurs chairman, claimed that he had done everything possible to change Francis's mind and blamed it all on his familiar scapegoats, the press. "The credibility of the man is no different from when he came here when everyone was singing his praises for how wonderful he had been at QPR," he said.

"He has been solicited by England and nothing has changed but a lot of pressure from the media. I am not bitching about it, that is an occupational hazard. It is all a matter of psychology and pressure, not managerial skill. Quite frankly I don't know why I'm sitting here. It started back in July, before we'd kicked a ball. Every time we slipped up it created a depression. The snowball effect from that has brought Gerry's resignation."

"I've told Gerry that if he came in wearing a mask and we called him Francisco Gerardo, things would be turned around and everybody would be happy," Sugar confirmed that Christian Gross, still coach of Grasshopper Zurich for their game against Etienne Carrouge last night, would take over as Tottenham manager on Monday. He is expected at a press conference at White Hart Lane today.

The 43-year-old, known in Switzerland for the meticulous organisation of his teams, will inherit a side lying sixteenth in the FA Carling Premiership, with 13 points from 14 games. Trying to explain that

position, Sugar said: "Football makes me go against my gut feelings and principles. Gerry succumbed to those pressures and took his eyes off the principles he would normally stick to. Pressure was being brought to bear by people who wanted entertainment and if he had stuck to his principles we would not be here today."

The clear inference was that, in signing David Ginola and José Domínguez in the summer, the manager had been pandering to demands for a more attractive side. One aside by Francis yesterday hinted that the pressure was not just from the supporters. "It is quite a political club in many ways," he said.

He did, however, excuse

Blunt Spurs — 48  
Southampton storm — 48

Sugar of interference. "I have made this decision solely by myself. Alan Sugar has never once mentioned anything to me about resigning or anything else. In fact quite the opposite is that he has consistently attempted to change my mind."

"I am still not exactly certain I made the right decision but, once you've made it, you've made it. You are judged by results, and they've not been good enough."

Francis, who plans a break with his family, is now favourite to return to Queens Park Rangers and Sugar said: "I have a sneaking suspicion that while he will enjoy the rest and recharge his batteries, some other chairman is going to be a very lucky person very soon."

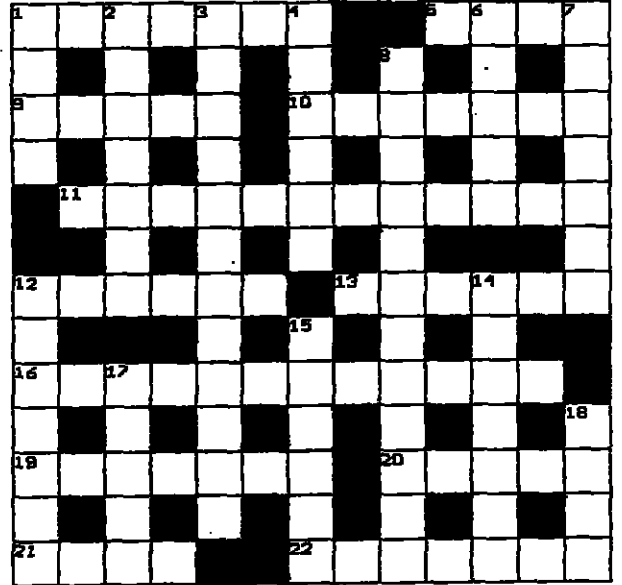


Gross: new arrival

### HOW THE TEAMS LINE UP AT OLD TRAFFORD

ENGLAND	NEW ZEALAND
M Perry (Bath)	C Cullen (Manawatu)
D Rees (Sale) W Greenwood (Leicester) P de la Senneville (Bath) A Adenayo (Bath)	J Wilson (Otago) F Buncos (North Harbour) A Ieremia (Wellington) J Long (Counties Manukau)
M Gatt (Bath)	A Mathewson (Canterbury)
K Bracken (Saracens)	G Dowd (Auckland) W Hewitt (Southland) O Brown (Auckland)
J Leonard (Harlequins) R Cockerill (Leicester) D Shepherd (Leicester)	I Jones (North Harbour) R Brooke (Auckland) T Randall (Otago)
M Johnson (Leicester) A Archer (Newcastle) L Dallaglio (Wasps) cap R Hill (Saracens)	A Blowers (Auckland) or J Kronfeld (Otago) Z Brooker (Auckland)
A Dismore (Saracens)	J Preston (Wellington) Blowers or Kronfeld C Riechelmann (Auckland)
Replacements: P Grayson (Northampton) A Healey (Leicester) G Rowntree (Leicester) A Long (Bath) D Greenwood (Saracens) M Bark (Leicester)	M Allen (Manawatu) A Oliver (Otago)

### TWO CROSSWORDS



No 1256

- ACROSS**
- Eight-armed creature (7)
  - Soap lather (4)
  - (Book) name; mark of rank (5)
  - Unexceptional; daily round (7)
  - At variance (12)
  - Bodily state, may be rude (6)
  - Risible error; sort of monkey (6)
  - Lack of bias (12)
  - A duct pipe (7)
  - Long period of time (5)
  - Conversation (4)
  - Stonework (7)
- DOWN**
- They feed Eng. horses, Scots people (Johnson) (4)
  - Osborn's queen (MIND) (7)
  - Ridiculous (12)
  - Enthusiasm; strain (6)
  - Join into one (5)
  - Suffer in heat; Groom's cook (7)
  - Hobnob (with) (3,9)
  - Coiffure (7)
  - Disappoint; fail to support (8,4)
  - One picked on (6)
  - Of punishment (5)
  - Watery separation from milk (4)

**SOLUTION TO NO 1255**

**ACROSS:** 1 Third World 8 Dudgeon 9 Basin 10 Seal 11 Brackish 13 Absell 15 Knight 17 Courtier 18 Stub 21 Evade 22 Preside 23 On the rocks

**DOWN:** 2 Hydra 3 Red 4 Wintry 5 Rubicund 6 Dashing 7 On the table 8 Dispatched 12 Ointment 14 Sumato 16 People 19 Trick 20 Hero

### THE TIMES BOOKSHOP

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The Times Crossword Book 3 is available in Times readers for just 66p (RRP £4.99) while supplies last from The Times Bookshop. Compilations of two Crossword Books — £2.99. The Times Crosswords Volume 10, 11, 12, 13 — £3.99 each. The Times Crossword Book 3 is also available, with fast delivery, along with any other books from The Times Bookshop. To order, please call 0800 135 135 for credit card orders or for further details. Payment by cheque/PO please payable to News Books/Crosswords and send to: The Times Bookshop, PO Box 265, Falmouth, TR11 2EX. Delivery in 10-14 days and subject to availability.

## Safety-first tactics force out Goodyear

BY MICHAEL CALVIN

FORMULA ONE, blighted by doubts about the credibility of its competitive structure in the wake of the Michael Schumacher controversy, last night received another ominous indication of commercial realities.

The announcement that Goodyear, the dominant tyre supplier in the sport for more than 30 years, will withdraw at the end of next season, is a direct response to changes implemented in the name of safety.

In effect, the American company is balking at the additional costs involved in the production of what they believe, in wider commercial terms, will be an inferior product. Regulations next year will involve narrow cars and treaded tyres in a pre-meditated attempt to reduce speeds.

William Sharp, president of the company's global operation, said: "The rule changes imposed for 1998, ever-escalating costs of participation and the consequent diminishing returns on the company's investment in Formula One, are major factors in Goodyear's decision."

Goodyear has been part of the fabric of Formula One

## Report proposes betting in pubs

BY RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

BETTING terminals should be allowed into pubs as part of a radical plan to improve racing's finances in the 21st century, according to a British Horseracing Board (BHB) report due out next month.

The proposal is coupled with a novel scheme that would involve the Government switching £75 million a year in betting duty to the sport's depleted coffers and recouping the money by imposing a 30 per cent tax on "numbers betting" — such as 49ers and Lucky Choice.

The existing tax rate for numbers betting is much lower than that imposed on the lottery and football pools and has helped the big bookmakers — Ladbrokes, William Hill and Coral — to report record profits in recent months.

The BHB report is being produced by a small group of directors and officials, chaired by Peter Savill, owner of Celtic Swing, the 1994 champion two-year-old. It discloses that the percentage of betting turnover on racing returning to fund the sport is just 1.29 per cent, compared with between 2.64 and 14.93 per cent received by other leading racing nations.

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**World Cup: Oliver Holt meets Venables**

**Simon Barnes on Phillips, the horseman**